

STARS AND STRIPES®

1st ID sons get
'guy time' with
Schweinfurt GIs

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Cablin Graham



Marksburg
Castle untouched
through time

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Miami nice

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Usher



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TUESDAY, AUGUST 31, 2004

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Bush: Terror war must be fought even if unwinnable

GOP convention delegates ratify Bush re-election platform

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Fun and Games

Athens hosted heartwarming,
heartbreaking Olympics

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Looking ahead

China is gearing up to dominate
when Beijing hosts in 2008

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Picture perfect

17 days of competition
made some lasting impressions

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Beijing mayor
Wang Zhaohui



Night watch

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Army Staff Sgt. Jessie Goff and Air Force Staff Sgt. Christopher Casey respond to a call of a disturbance while on patrol in a bar district Friday with German Polizei officers in Kaiserslautern, Germany. The patrolmen are part of the 569th U.S. Forces Police Squadron in Vogelsheim, Germany, that was invited to join German police on their Friday and Saturday night patrols.

RAYMOND T. CONWAY
Stars and Stripes

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Charley recovery: High school students got up well before dawn to resume classes Monday for the first time since Hurricane Charley tore through Port Charlotte, Fla., 17 days ago, sharing their building with crosstown rivals whose school fared worse.

Free breakfast was offered to all takers at Port Charlotte High School, where students were squeezed into an early schedule to allow the visiting Charlotte High School students to get going early in the afternoon.

Church abuse: Lawyers for hundreds of alleged victims of sexual abuse by Roman Catholic priests estimate that their clients' claims could cost the Archdiocese of Los Angeles more than \$1.5 billion, the largest amount ever paid out by a diocese, according to court documents.

Attorney Raymond P. Boucher said the amount is based on verdicts and settlements in clergy abuse cases nationwide and is consistent with secret estimates of local claims done by a Los Angeles judge earlier this year, the Los Angeles Times reported Sunday.

Economic indicator: After taking a rest in June, the nation's consumers were full of energy last month, boosting their spending by 0.8 percent, a hopeful sign the economy may be emerging from a summer funk.

The over-the-month increase in consumer spending, reported by the Commerce Department on Monday, marked a turnaround from the 0.2 percent decline registered in June, when high energy prices and a sluggish job market made for more cautious buyers.

Elizabeth Smart kidnapping: The two people evaluating the man charged with kidnapping Elizabeth Smart have never spoken with him, and the judge in the case has said they disagree on nearly every aspect of his psychology.

A hearing to determine whether Brian David Mitchell is competent to stand trial was scheduled to start Tuesday and last three days, but it could take much longer to determine whether Mitchell is competent, or able to aid in his defense. The two court-appointed experts "are not close to being in agreement," Judge Judith Atherton has said in Salt Lake City.



Mitchell

World

U.N. deadline for Sudan: Sudan, awaiting word on whether it will be sanctioned by the international community, hopes for a "reasonable decision" from the U.N. Security Council, the foreign minister said Monday, the U.N.-imposed deadline for quelling violence in its western Darfur provinces.

Mustafa Osman Ismail's remarks came as a U.S. State Department official made a first-hand American assessment of conditions for thousands of people displaced by fighting between Sudanese and rebel forces and



Living with flood waters: Residents waded through flood waters that continue to inundate the low-lying town of Calumpit, Philippines, in Bulacan province north of Manila on Monday. The floods, brought about by heavy monsoon rains last week, affected about 1.3 million people in metropolitan Manila and the main Philippine island of Luzon, with the death toll climbing to at least 35 Monday.

by attacks from Arab militiamen known as Janjaweed.

The visit by Constance Berry Newman, assistant secretary of state for African affairs, follows tours by U.N. teams who report Tuesday to Secretary-General Kofi Annan on whether the government is doing all it can to rein in the Janjaweed.

Gaza Strip settlements: Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon wants all 21 Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip evacuated at the same time, instead of in three stages, officials said Monday, reflecting a major shift in position.

On Monday, Sharon and Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz presented the new plan to the Security Cabinet, a forum of senior ministers, setting off a heated debate.

Charges in attempted coup: Two South Africans acquitted by a Zimbabwe court of weapons charges related to an alleged coup plot in Equatorial Guinea were charged Monday with violating their country's anti-mercenary laws.

Separately, the Justice Ministry said Monday South Africa is considering a request by Equatorial Guinea to question Mark Thatcher, son of former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, about his alleged involvement in the failed coup plot in the oil-rich west African nation.

A total of 88 men are now in custody in South Africa, Equatorial Guinea and Zimbabwe in connection with the plot allegedly foiled in March.

Bangladesh protest: A general strike to protest a recent grenade attack that killed 20 people at an opposition political rally brought Bangladesh to a near standstill Monday.

Shops and schools were closed and most traffic halted across the country during the

dawn-to-dusk strike called by opposition Awami League activists. It was the fourth strike in a week.

Jewish center attack: French police detained a man Monday believed to be responsible for a recent arson attack on a Jewish community center in Paris, judicial officials said.

The suspect did not appear to have been motivated by anti-Semitism, the officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Serbia-Montenegro's U.N. bid: Romanian President Ion Iliescu on Monday voiced support for Serbia-Montenegro's desire to join the European Union, saying it would stabilize the volatile Balkan region.

Romania is seeking to join the EU in 2007.

War on terrorism

Afghan torture hearing: A hearing for three Americans charged with torturing Afghans on a private anti-terror mission was postponed on Monday for 10 days at the defendants' request after they brought in American lawyers.

Jonathan Idema, Edward Caraballo and Brent Bennett, who are also charged with kidnapping and holding Afghans in a makeshift jail, were due in court Monday for what had been expected to be the decisive hearing.

Pakistan defends terror record: Pakistan on Monday claimed it had the best record in the international war on terrorism, and rejected allegations that Taliban rebels were finding sanctuary on its soil.

"Our effort has been second to none in terms of results. Nobody's record matches ours," Foreign Ministry spokesman Masood Khan told a news conference.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

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Al-Sadr urges followers to stop fighting

BY TODD PITMAN
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Rebel Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr called for his followers across Iraq to end fighting against U.S. and Iraqi forces and is planning to join the political process in the coming days, an al-Sadr aide said Monday.

Meanwhile, Iraqi oil exports came to a halt after a rash of insurgent attacks on the country's petroleum infrastructure, the country's main source of income, senior oil company officials and the governor of the southern province of Basra said.

Nevertheless, oil prices fell as traders continued a selloff amid easing fears that disruptions in Iraq, Russia or Venezuela could cause supply squeezes.

The announcement by al-Sadr came as his aides were trying to negotiate an end to fighting in the Baghdad slum of Sadr City and in the southern city of Basra, where clashes have continued even after a peace deal was reached in Najaf, the holy city where al-Sadr's militiamen battled U.S. and Iraqi forces for three weeks.

Al-Sadr also called for U.S. and Iraqi forces to withdraw from the center of Iraqi cities, Sheikh Ali Smeism said. The Associated Press. However, that did not appear to be a condition for the unilateral cease-fire.

"I call on the interim Iraqi government to have patience ... and to pull back the American and Iraqi forces from the center of Iraqi cities," Smeism said, speaking on behalf of al-Sadr. "At the same time I call on the forces of the Mahdi Army (militia) to ... stop firing until the announcement of the political program adopted by the Sadrist movement."

When asked if the cease-fire would take effect immediately, he said: "I hope so."

The announcement could provide a major boost to the government of interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi. Al-Sadr has fiercely opposed the continued U.S. presence in Iraq and has denounced Allawi's government as dependent on the Americans — but if he decides to join politics, it would suggest al-Sadr's acceptance of the U.S.-backed political process due to lead to elections in January.

Allawi has also demanded al-Sadr disband his Mahdi Army militia, but the aides did not say the cleric was considering doing so. The militia has emerged intact from the weeks of fighting with U.S. forces, and al-Sadr has gained popularity among some sectors of Shiites, particularly the poor.

"This latest initiative shows that we want stability and security in this country by ending all confrontation in all parts of Iraq," said Sheikh Raed al-Khadami,



A worker does routine maintenance on an oil pipeline near Basra, Iraq, on Monday. According to a senior oil official, oil exports from southern Iraq, which account for nearly 90 percent of total exports, have ground to a complete halt because of insurgent attacks on pipelines.

al-Sadr's spokesman in Baghdad. "Al-Sadr's office in Najaf will call within the next two days to join the political process."

Al-Sadr visited the Imam Ali Shrine in the city of Najaf for the first time since his militia left the holy site of Friday after weeks of using it as a stronghold and refuge during the fighting with the Americans.

Al-Sadr asked religious authorities for permission to enter the shrine and made a brief visit on Monday, according to the office

of Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, Iraq's top Shiite cleric.

Uprisings by al-Sadr's fighters this month and in April increased the security problems faced by Allawi's government, on top of the Sunni Muslim-led insurgency that has plagued Iraq since the fall of Saddam Hussein more than a year ago.

A roadside bomb hit a U.S. military convoy on a road near the northern city of Mosul on Sunday, killing one American soldier and wounding two others, the Army

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Friday, 968 U.S. servicemen have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq in March 2003, according to the Defense Department. Of those, 724 died as a result of hostile action and 244 died of nonhostile causes.

The British military has reported 64 deaths, Italy 18, Spain 11, Poland 10, Bulgaria, six; Ukraine, six; Slovakia, three; Thailand, two; and Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia and the Netherlands have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 830 U.S. troops have died — 615 as a result of hostile action and 215 of nonhostile causes, according to the military's numbers Friday. The department did not provide an update on Sunday.

■ The latest deaths reported by U.S. Central Command or family members: A soldier was killed in Iraq when his fuel truck hit a land mine.

■ The latest identifications reported by the military: No identifications reported.

said Monday.

Oil exports, which have been falling for days because of a string of insurgent attacks, came to a complete stop from southern pipelines, which account for 90 percent of Iraq's exports, after an explosion Sunday.

Two senior officials of the South Oil Co. speaking Monday on the condition of anonymity, said the southern lines were not likely to resume operations for at least a week. Iraq's other export avenue, a northern pipeline to the Turkish Mediterranean port of Ceyhan, also carried no oil Monday, according to an oil official in Ceyhan.

Convicted GI testifies against Pfc. England

BY ESTES THOMPSON
The Associated Press

FORT BRAGG, N.C. — A soldier already convicted in the Abu Ghraib prison abuse scandal testified Monday that fellow Army reservist Pfc. Lyndie England was a willing participant in creating the "human pyramid" of naked Iraqi detainees shown in infamous photographs from Iraq.

Pvt. Jeremy C. Svits testified at a hearing in England's case that he helped escort one detainee into the Baghdad prison one night in December 2003. He said a sergeant who was in charge ordered England and another soldier to stop "stomping on the fingers and toes" of a detainee.

After that sergeant left, Svits testified, he watched as Spc. Charles Graner Jr. and others stacked seven naked detainees, who had bags over their heads, in

the human pyramid and photographed them.

The photos included shots of England, 21, smiling and pointing at one detainee's genitals and posing behind the pyramid.

"Corporal Graner seemed like he was enjoying it," said Svits, of the Maryland-based 372nd Military Police Company. He testified that England was "having a good time."

Svits pleaded guilty in the scandal and is serving a year in prison. He testified by telephone Monday from the brig at Camp Lejeune.

England is one of seven members of the 372nd charged in the scandal. Graner has been portrayed as the group's ringleader. Staff Sgt. Ivan "Chip" Frederick II announced last week that he would plead guilty to some of the charges against him.

The hearing, which began earlier this month, is to determine



Army Pfc. Lyndie England exits her car Monday in a driving rain at Fort Bragg, N.C., upon arriving at Article 32 hearing on charges of abusing Iraqi detainees at the Abu Ghraib prison.

whether England, a personnel clerk from Fort Ashby, Va., should face a court-martial on 13 counts of abusing detainees and six counts stemming from possession of sexually explicit photos not involving detainees. If convicted, she could get up to 38 years in prison.

Defense mum on tactic for accused info-sharer

BY MELANTHIA MITCHELL
The Associated Press

SEATTLE — The defense for Spc. Ryan Anderson faces a black-and-white challenge: The tank crewman is shown on videotape willingly sharing military information with federal undercover agents he believed to be al-Qaida members.

Anderson, 27, was set to begin his court-martial Monday on charges he tried to help the terrorist group. The trial at Fort Lewis, south of Seattle, was expected to last five days.

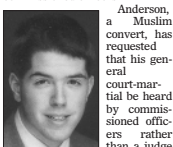
Anderson pleaded innocent Aug. 9 to five counts of trying to provide the al-Qaida terrorist network with information about U.S. troop strength and tactics, as well as methods for killing American soldiers.

Anderson, a member of the

Washington National Guard's 81st Airborne Brigade now in Iraq, faces life in prison without parole. A conviction requires agreement by two-thirds of a panel of commissioned officers.

Anderson, a Muslim convert, has requested that his general court-martial be heard by commissioned officers rather than a judge or a mixed panel of officers and enlisted soldiers.

Specifications of the case have been guarded, with Anderson's attorney, Maj. Joseph Morse, and military prosecutor, Maj. Chris Jenks, refusing to comment.



Forget the human enemy. Humvee gunners in Najaf face something just as bad: A web of wires

BY JASON CHUDY
Stars and Stripes

Ask Humvee gunner Spc. Tim Collins of the 3rd Battalion, 153rd Infantry Regiment of the Arkansas National Guard about what worried him most about fighting in Najaf, and the answer is surprising.

It wasn't enemy fire, but rather low-hanging electrical wires and steel rebar.

"Around here it's pretty bad," said the 27-year-old from Pochontas, Ark. "I'll either pull you out or decapitate you."

He and his driver, Spc. Jimmy Ingram, 32, of Imboden, Ark., spent more than two weeks racing through Najaf's sometimes narrow and always debris-strewn streets, delivering personnel, supplies or providing supporting fire for Company C, 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, all the while dodging low-hanging wires and rebar, the steel reinforcement bars used in construction.

Their platoon was attached to Company C before the Najaf fight.

"I believe that's what got [one soldier] last night," Collins said to Ingram. "One guy in the 2-7 Cav got electrocuted, but he didn't die."

The soldier Collins referred to received cuts and bruises to his chin from either low-hanging wire or a piece of rebar that had flown up from the street.

"Around here [the low-hanging electrical wires and steel rebar] are pretty bad. It'll either pull you out or decapitate you."

**Humvee gunner
Spc. Tim Collins**
of the 3rd Battalion, 153rd
Infantry Regiment of the
Arkansas National Guard

mize it.

"We sent the tanks through first," said Capt. Peter Glass, commander of Company C, 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment. His unit was attached to 2-7 Cav for



PHOTOS BY JASON CHUDY/Stars and Stripes

A soldier looks down a Najaf street through a thick web of electrical wires. The wires are a threat to Humvee gunners, as is rebar sticking out from damaged buildings or those which had been under construction before the fighting started. Rebar also has lodged in the tracks of tanks and Bradleys during the fight.

the Najaf fighting.

The tanks have a 50-caliber machine gun mounted highest on its turret, and when they came back from a mission "the 50 cal looked like a mummy," said Capt. Jason Toepfer, commander of Company C, 2-7 Cav. "We had a couple of guys helping them [remove wire]. They were taking off hundreds of feet of wire."

Even after dozens of runs down Najaf's streets by dozens of vehicles, dangling wires remained a problem. Gunfire would cause a new batch of broken wires, which would drop straight down or loop down across the street.

Drivers, Collins said, needed to be an extra set of eyes for the gunner to warn him of the danger.

"Jimmy's really good at yelling 'Wire, drop!'" Collins said of In-



gram. "He's always telling me something." The placement of the turret, which is determined by the vehicle's position in the group or by enemy action, may put them at a disadvantage for the wires. "You've gotta have your turret forward," said Ingram. "The wire just gets on the [M1240 [machine gun], and it's bolted in, so it just rips it out. If the turret is facing to the right or left of the track, it'll do a number on the turret."

"In the daytime you can see it, but nighttime is rough on us," said Staff Sgt. David Specking of the 3-153rd. "Even if you can see it with night vision [goggles] you can't judge the distance." Whether day or night, whenever the gunner is facing backward on an armored Humvee, he can't see anything coming at him. A metal shield protects the soldier's back from fire or wire, but even if the shield catches the wire there's a possibility of injury.

"A lot of times it'll break on the shield back, but it'll come around and hit you in the face or chest," Collins said.

One cable broke that way on him. "It slapped me upside the face and left a welt," he said.

"Rebar will go right through you," Collins said.

And rebar, Company C soldiers say, is everywhere. "My area of responsibility was ... in a construction area," Glass said.

"A lot of the buildings that were blown up have rebar hanging down or sticking out from the concrete," Specking said.

Piles of the inch-thick rebar also sat on the ground, waiting to be pulled into the tracks of a passing tank or Bradley fighting vehicle. This sometimes puts the Bradleys out of action for a while.

"We had to call a welder a couple of times to get it out," Glass said.

E-mail Jason Chudy at: chudyj@mail.estrp.osd.mil



A Company C, 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment soldier watches for the enemy as other company members unload food from two Humvees at their forward position in Najaf. Gunners for the Humvees have to worry about enemy fire and low-hanging wires and rebar, such as that sticking up from the construction site in back, during these missions.

France won't repeal ban on head scarves

Officials refuse demands of militants holding 2 French journalists in Iraq

BY ELAINE GANLEY

The Associated Press

PARIS — France's government insisted Monday that it would go ahead with a ban on Muslim head scarves in schools, standing firm against scrapping the law just hours before a deadline set by Islamic militants holding two French journalists in Iraq.

"The law will be applied" when school doors open Thursday, government spokesman Jean-François Cope said.

But hours after Muslim leaders at home and abroad began to rally around France with statements of support and calls on the shadowy Islamic Army of Iraq to free the two reporters, Christian Chesnot and Georges Malbrunot, one of the hostages called on French President Jacques Chirac to give in to militants' demand to rescind the head scarf ban to save their lives, according to a video shot early Tuesday on the Al-Jazeera television station.

In Paris, two marches converged on a square near the Eiffel Tower, with hundreds of people chanting "Free the hostages."

In a video shown on Al-Jazeera on Saturday night, the militant group called the ban "an aggression on the Islamic religion and personal freedoms" and demanded it be rescinded within 48 hours — which would be sometime Monday night.

There was no explicit threat made toward the hostages, but a militant group with a similar name was believed to have killed an Italian freelance journalist last week after Italy's government rejected a demand that it withdraw its 3,000 soldiers in Iraq.

Before the video, the last time anyone heard from the French journalists was Aug. 19.

The kidnapping has been a shock to many in France, which opposed the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq

and has pursued generally pro-Arab policies.

"The French have discovered that having opposed the Iraq war does not make them immune from the wrath of Islamists," said Bruno Tertrais at the Foundation for Strategic Research.

The measure's passage in March triggered protests by Muslims, as well as turban-wearing Sikhs, around the world, who argued it is discriminatory.

While the law bans all "conspicuous" religious apparel, such as Jewish skullcaps and large Christian crosses, it is really aimed at Muslim head scarves in public schools. Many French fear their secular nation, which has the biggest Islamic population in western Europe with 5 million Muslims, is under threat from a rising tide of Islamic fundamentalism.

Still, Muslim activists in the Middle East appealed to the hostage takers Monday and offered praise for France's anti-war stance on Iraq.

"Because of France's distinguished position in rejecting the Anglo-American occupation of Iraq, we appeal to the people who kidnapped the journalists to spare their lives," said the Islamic Action Front, Jordan's largest opposition group.

In Beirut, Lebanon's most senior Shiite Muslim cleric, Grand Ayatollah Mohammed Hussein Fadlallah, renewed his religious edict against the kidnapping of foreigners and called for the release of the two French reporters.

"The kidnapping [of foreigners] runs contrary to the Quranic Islamic principles," Fadlallah said in his edict, faxed to The Associated Press.

In Egypt to lead diplomatic efforts to free the journalists, French Foreign Minister Michel Barnier called the demand to drop the French law "incomprehensible."

However, there were signs of anger when it was passed, including an ominous message for France six months ago from the top lieutenant of Osama bin Laden. An audiotape with a voice attributed to Ayman al-Zawahiri, aired Feb. 24 on Al-Arabiya television, said the law on head scarves "is another example of the Crusader's malice which Westerners have against Muslims."



An Iraqi woman walks Monday past a mural on the blast wall that surrounds the French Embassy in Baghdad. France vowed to press ahead with a law banning Islamic head scarves in schools, despite demands by militants holding two French journalists hostage in Iraq.

Making 'to serve and protect' the motto of the Iraqi police

BY LISA BURGESS

Stars and Stripes

BAGHDAD — "To serve and protect" is the motto of police departments across the United States. Most police officers take the position as a moral duty, not just a job.

But in the 30 years Saddam Hussein was in power, they were different for Iraqi police. They had the financial outlook of many American waiters: Salary was minimal; the real money was in tips.

Up to now, Iraqis seeking police assistance have been going to the Americans with their complaints, according to a translator for the 1st Cavalry Division. "We tell them to go to the Iraqi police," he said, "and they say, 'We do, but they won't help us, and ask us for money.'"

Capt. Reggie Kornegay, 33, who grew up on the streets of Harlem, N.Y., is not judgmental about the Iraqi police's former operating techniques. He said he understands why police working under Saddam did what they did.

"If the police were corrupt, it was because the entire system was corrupt," said Kornegay, a civilian police officer for seven years and now a civil affairs officer with the 478th Civil Affairs Battalion. He is currently attached to the 1st Battalion, 93rd Cavalry Regiment in Baghdad.



LISA BURGESS/Stars and Stripes

Capt. Reggie Kornegay, a civil affairs officer with the 478th Civil Affairs Battalion who is attached to the 1st Battalion, 93rd Cavalry Regiment in Baghdad, goes over last-minute preparations for the inaugural class of the Iraqi Police Leaders Operational Assistance and Development Course with interpreter Nora Issam.

"You don't blame individual officers if the leadership did not instill" the service ethic, he said. But in order to "establish the true legitimacy" of the Iraqi police force, that has to change, he said. And now, "all the tools are

present" for a professional force, he said.

The coalition has invested millions of dollars in the new force. In the past year, thousands of Iraqi police officers have undergone coalition-sponsored training

in the fundamentals of tactical police work. Most have weapons and uniforms, and most police stations have been rebuilt to provide protection against attack.

But something basic is still missing: "We need to instill the

moral, ethical and professional characteristics of a police department," said Kornegay, who has been assigned to training Iraqi police. "Anyone will tell you it's not there."

"Tell, the [Iraqi police] leaders will tell you it's not there."

That's why Sunday morning at Forward Operating Base Headhunter, 20 Iraqi police patrol and section leaders sat in a makeshift classroom, listening to trainers explain the curriculum for the new five-day Iraqi Police Leaders Operational Assistance and Development Course.

The sessions will emphasize community policing, ethics and professional standards of behavior.

The original six trainers for the course are Kornegay, two Iraqi interpreters along with Spc. Sean Martin, Sgt. Melvin Slagle and Staff Sgt. Kelsey Groff, all members of Company C, 1st Battalion, 153rd Infantry, of the Arkansas National Guard.

Kornegay hopes that what the staff is trying to teach the Iraqis will make a big difference to the police force — and to Iraq as a whole.

"When the Iraqi police can effectively operate and protect the community, we will see a drastic change in the sentiments of the people," Kornegay said. "Professional policing saves lives."

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Curbing crime in Kaiserslautern's pub zone

569th U.S. Forces Police Squadron helps German police keep the peace in bar district

BY MARNI MCENTEE

Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — In the early hours of Saturday morning, five figures cut a distinct upright swath through the beery, giggling revelers weaving along Kaiserslautern's pub zone.

Air Force Staff Sgt. Christopher Casey, Army Staff Sgt. Jessie Goff, and German civilian and squadron member Bernd Hemmer, along with two German policemen, were making their rounds on foot to curb crime and disorder during K-Town's raucous weekends.

"When I first started, it was uncontrollable downtown," said Casey, 26, of Killington, Vt. "There was lots of action on the streets."

So much so that German police decided to invite Casey's unit, the 569th U.S. Forces Police Squadron, to join them in the foot patrols on Friday and Saturday nights.

The 569th, which always patrols off-base, is in charge of a region about the size of Rhode Island, stretching from Pirmasens to Frankfurt. At its heart is Kaiserslautern's restaurant and bar district, where dozens of watering holes and dance clubs attract the young and the reckless.

"We wanted to be more proactive and show a presence," said Master Sgt. Leo Birch III, the squadron's noncommissioned officer-in-charge of law enforcement and security.

The joint German-American patrols have several benefits. The U.S. military police are there to translate when Americans get in trouble, and will handle most of the cases in which Americans are involved. It makes it easier for the Germans and Americans to share case information and track crime.

And, so far, it appears to be working.

From April to June this year, the squadron handled 46 drunk-and-driving cases; 78 assaults or domestic violence cases; nine sexual assaults; and 142 larceny cases, Birch said. After the foot patrols started, between July and August they handled a month's shorter time period — the unit handled 18 DUIs, 37 assaults or domestic violence cases, one sexual assault and 107 larcenies.

"Our presence has made a difference," Birch said.

Foot patrols are used on occasion near other Air Force bases in Europe. Security forces squadrons at RAF Lakenheath and RAF Mildenhall, England, period-



RAYMOND T. CONWAY/Stars and Stripes

From left, German civilian and 569th U.S. Forces Police Squadron member Bernd Hemmer, Air Force Staff Sgt. Christopher Casey and Army Staff Sgt. Jessie Goff patrol a bar district with German Police officers in Kaiserslautern, Germany, on Friday night. The rowdy pub zone was becoming uncontrollable, so German officials asked the Squadron to help out on Friday and Saturday nights.

ically patrol with the constabulary in areas frequented by off-duty troops, base officials said.

Air Force police have long patrolled the bar zones where troops are stationed in Korea.

And the Navy routinely sends teams of sailors on "shore patrol," to walk bar districts to deter shipmates from getting into trouble or to help those who might have had too much to drink.

Friday night's town patrol in Kaiserslautern was a little unusual. An American Forces News reporter's bright camera lights gave the patrol the look of an on-location movie shoot. That seemed to fascinate drunken passers-by, who mugged for the camera and made innuendo remarks to the police.

One man jumped from his seat in a bar, ran out the door and shouted, "Hey! I'm gay! I'm gay! Come and get me!"

A few parties, obviously American by their lingo, T-shirts and baseball caps, heckled the police, then quickly scurried away.

Casey and Goff, a National Guard soldier with the 2nd Battalion, 115th Field Artillery Regiment from Lexington, Tenn., kept a steady front. They said they get a lot of guff from drunken U.S. troops, even when the TV camera

aren't around.

"You've gotta bite your tongue sometimes," Casey said. "I really don't care what they say. We're

here to protect them."

One man approached the group

"Our presence has made a difference."

Master Sgt. Leo Birch III

569th squadron's

noncommissioned

officer-in-charge of law

enforcement and security

to complain about Americans' bad behavior downtown.

"They don't know their limits," said Manuel Lamas, who lives in Kaiserslautern. "They walk down the streets screaming. They pee on the walls. They throw bottles."

German police officer Christoph Mauer, night duty officer for the Polizei's downtown station, said Americans are only part of the problem. Germans, Russians and Turks make their share of trouble as well. Drinking and drug use are the catalysts, Mauer said.

One obviously inebriated airman, who was wearing an ear-ring and had three pretty girls on his arm, stopped to have a chat with the military police.

"It's good they're here," he said. "There has been some pretty serious stuff happen down here."

Marni McEntee at: mcentee@mail.stripsosd.mil

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Labor Day
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Pordenone Pedala brings it all together

Road race combines Italian passions of food, friends, family, cycling

BY KENT HARRIS
Stars and Stripes

PORDENONE, Italy — You don't have to live in Italy long to realize that the locals take bicycle riding seriously.

Professional cyclists are probably second only to soccer stars among the country's sports heroes. And, on even a short drive, it is normal to pass an elderly person or a group of teens in uniform

pedaling on the side of the road.

But there are a few things Italians take even more seriously: Food, friends and family.

Throw out the soccer and add the other four loves together and you have the Pordenone Pedala.

The annual event — not a race — turns 32 on Sunday with a 42-kilometer course through Pordenone and towns to the south.

"It's something to do on a Sunday and something fun to do with

your friends," says Linda Romanin, an American who works in the legal office for the 31st Fighter Wing at nearby Aviano Air Base.

All 4,999 of your friends.

Organizer Demetrio Moras — the man behind the event every year of its existence — says he won't allow more than 5,000 people to participate. As of Thursday, he already had more than 4,000 entrants.

Logistically, getting that many people on bikes around a 42-kilometer course and feeding them lunch and dinner is enough of a challenge, he says. So those who don't register in time will have to wait until next year.

And there always seems to be a next year. In fact, Moras, who owns an office supply store near the starting line in downtown Pordenone, already has a good idea of where the course will run

"It's something to do on a Sunday and something fun to do with your friends."

Linda Romanin

31st Fighter Wing,
Aviano Air Base, Italy

next year.

Speaking through an interpreter, he says the city of Brugnera is a likely destination. Last year, Aviano was included in the route. In fact, it was the place where those biking broke for lunch.

This year, that place is Pravisdomini, about 12 miles south of Pordenone. The route, which will be blocked off by a combination of volunteers and local police, also passes through Corva, Cinque Strade, Azzano Decimo, Chions, Panigai, Villacricola, Fagnigola, Le Fratte and Tiezzo.

For a 5-euro entry fee (about \$6.18), participants get a number, an assortment of memorabilia and coupons for lunch and dinner.

Lunch consists of a sandwich at Pravisdomini. Local grocery chain Conad is donating most of the supplies. Local Italian army units will cook a pasta dinner.

The race isn't supposed to be competitive, so no awards will be given to the fastest riders. And those who break down should be well cared for. About a dozen doctors will be driving in vehicles along the route and will be joined by about 50 volunteers from the Italian Red Cross.

If a rider's bikes breaks, he or she might be able to ride along the route in a van while their bicycle is repaired in another van. That's not something that would fly in the Tour de France.

But Moras says even six-time tour winner Lance Armstrong wouldn't feel the need to be competitive in an event where three generations of families often ride together.

"He would ride slow," Moras says with a paternal smile.

Romanin said about 120 Americans participated last year. She's the contact person on base this year — call her at DSN 632-4790 — and about 70 people from the base have registered so far. That's far fewer than the 700 or so spots reserved by the local Electra factory.

But Moras says everyone is welcome — provided they have a bike and register on time.



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Seeing what Dad does downrange

BY STEVE LIEWER

Stars and Stripes

SCHWEINFURT, Germany — Sixteen-year-old B.J. Hinz lay flat on a mat, staring through the sight of his M16 rifle at a green man-shaped target 25 meters across the grass.

He squeezed the trigger. Boom! Down went the target. Boom! Down it went again. Twenty times — without a miss.

"I've shot a shotgun before, but nothing like this," said Hinz, grinning, after he had finished. "It's something I've wanted to try for a long time."

"Guy time" is limited these days for sons like B.J., whose dad is serving in Iraq this year with the 1st Infantry Division. But on Monday, he and 35 other youngsters spent Monday in training with rear-detachment soldiers from the Schweinfurt-based 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment.

The unit's noncommissioned officers came up with the plan for the "Boys Day Out" over the past 4½ weeks, said 1st Sgt. Wilber Ebbs, the rear-detachment NCO in charge.

"We saw some of the boys in the battalion who seem a little lost with their fathers gone," Ebbs said. "We thought we'd get them out for some male-bonding type things."

The boys, ages 4 to 16, started

out in weapons-safety classes on the firing range at Schweinfurt's Victory Training Center. Then they practiced shooting with indoor rifle simulators, the same ones their fathers train on.

Finally they trekked out, two at a time, to the rifle range, clad in flak vests and Kevlar helmets. There, under the close supervision of Sgt. 1st Class Will Egbers and several assistants, they fired M4s and M16s — yes, with live ammunition — at targets placed in front of a grassy berm.

After they finished shooting, they ate a barbecue lunch. The kids bubbled over their new experience. Several said they thought such a powerful automatic rifle would kick harder against their shoulders.

"You couldn't feel a thing under all that armor," said Derrin King, 8. "After I shot the second or third shot, it was easy."

Capt. Matthew Lennox, the rear-detachment commander, said it took some convincing at higher levels to get approval for a live-fire event involving children.

"There weren't a lot of people who thought bringing 5-year-olds out here was a good idea," he admitted. "(The NCOs) had a lot of naysayers early, but they pushed it through."

Sergeants divided the boys into squads and marched them from one training station to the next. Sgt. John Garcia called out



PHOTOS BY KRISTEN CHANDLER TOTM/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Third-grader Derrin King watches as Sgt. 1st Class William Egbers points toward the plastic target the boys will be shooting, while 5-year-old Steven Harrison looks on with nervous anticipation. The 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Rear Detachment held a Boys Day Out event at the shooting range in Schweinfurt on Monday.

cadence for his pint-sized charges. He called his squad the "Dragons," though one youngster piped up that he'd prefer to be a "Power Ranger."

"I enjoy being with the kids, and it gave them a taste of what their dads do," Garcia said. "We don't want them to forget their dads are doing an important job."

Lennox shot photos to send to the 1-7 Field Artillery's soldier-dads. The unit could use a boost: Six of its men have been killed since 1st ID deployed in February.

"I think it'll pay big dividends," he said. "It reassures them we're doing our job, taking care of their families."

E-mail Steve Liewer at: liewers@mail.stripsides.osd.mil



Sgt. John Garcia helps his son, Jonathan, take aim at a small paper target. Garcia taught a group of boys the basics of marksmanship with this simulator, called the "Weaponer."

New Garmisch resort now taking troops' reservations

BY CHARLIE COON

Stars and Stripes

The Armed Forces Recreation Center's Edelweiss Lodge and Resort in the Bavarian Alps has begun taking reservations from troops who will be returning from downrange or are on rest and recuperation leave.

"Rooms are reserved on a first-come, first-served basis," said Richard LeBrun, Edelweiss' general manager, in a press release. "However, [we] will make sure to accommodate any servicemember and family wishing to participate in the Operation R&R Program, a program only for those on R&R or block leave with their unit."

The new resort is in Garmisch at the foot of the Zugspitze, the tallest peak in Germany, and is about a five-hour drive from Frankfurt.

Edelweiss' grand opening is scheduled for Sept. 15. Ski season opens the last weekend in November.

The two-night packages for troops and civilians on R&R cost \$90 for single occupancy and \$120 for two people in a room, including breakfast and dinner. Additional nights cost \$45 and \$60, respectively, per night.

Children 12 and younger can stay and eat for free, and the charge is \$18 for youths ages 13 to 17.

Additional nights can be booked at the same rate.

The resort is also open to Department of Defense civilian employees and retirees.

For information and reservations on rest and recuperation packages, call civilian (449) (0)8821-72981 or DSN 440-2575.

E-mails can be sent to vacation@afrc.garmisch-army.mil. Title e-mails "R&R package. The resort's Web site is www.edelweisslodgeandresort.com

The 330-room hotel will include three restaurants, game rooms, parking garage and indoor pool. The visitors also can use the nine-hole golf course and campground.

Edelweiss, which was named for a flower native to the region, was built using a \$58 million loan taken out by the U.S. military. It consolidates former hotel operations in Garmisch and Chiemsee that were run by AFRC Europe.

As things are set now, all the soldiers of the Würzburg-based 1st Infantry Division who were deployed to Iraq will be eligible for two weeks of rest and recuperation in the coming months, according to Lt. Col. Chris Kolenda, the division's rear detachment commander.

"Some of the people will want to travel, some will want to stay home and some will want to go back home to the States," Kolenda said. "My advice to them is to enjoy the time."

E-mail Charlie Coon at: coon@mail.stripsides.osd.mil

Memorial service to be held for former DODDS teachers killed in crash

Stars and Stripes

HANAU, Germany — A memorial service will be held Thursday for a pair of former teachers who died in an automobile accident in late July.

Beverly Elaine Whitaker, 60, and William James Whitaker, 61, taught at Frankfurt High School, Hanau High School and Hanau Elementary School, where they retired from the Department of Defense Dependent Schools system in June 2003.

The couple was driving from their home in Florida to a son's wedding in Virginia on July 29 when they were involved in a multiple-car accident.

According to newspaper reports, a

car in one of the southbound lanes on Interstate 85 was struck from behind, causing it to veer into the northbound traffic. It collided with the Chevrolet Blazer the Whitakers were driving, and all three people were killed.

The Whitakers taught at DODDS schools for 31 years. They are survived by their sons, Cory and Kyle, with both graduated from Hanau High School.

The service will be held at 4 p.m. at the chapel on Pioneer Kaserne. Condolences may be sent to Hanau Middle School, Unit 20193, Box 16, APO AE 09165-0016, Attn: Whitaker Family, or can be posted on a Web site: 4allfree.com/cgi/gb.id?Whitaker

Court-martial to begin

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — Court-martial proceedings begin Tuesday for a Ramstein airman accused of indecent assault stemming from an incident in a base dormitory.

Airman 1st Class John Williams, a pavements and construction apprentice with the 735th Civil Engineering Squadron, allegedly committed the of-

fense against a woman on Aug. 15, 2003, in an on-base dormitory, Ramstein officials said.

The charge is a violation of the Uniform Code of Military Justice's Article 134. According to a UCMJ Web site, if convicted, Williams faces a maximum penalty of a dishonorable discharge, forfeiture of all pay and allowances and confinement for five years.

From staff reports

IN THE WORLD

Russia's choice wins Chechnya presidency

BY MIKE ECKEL
The Associated Press

GROZNY, Russia — The Russian government's choice to lead warring Chechnya easily won a presidential election held in the wake of last week's terrorist destruction of two airliners, election officials said Monday. The opposition charged that voting was tainted by fraud.

Ali Alkhanov, the region's top police official, replaces Kremlin-backed president Akhmad Kadyrov, who was assassinated in a bomb attack in May.

Alkhanov received nearly 74 percent of the vote in Sunday's balloting, Chechen elections commission head Abdul-Kerim Arslanov said.

Other candidates complained of widespread violations in a vote that was shadowed by violence, including a man who blew himself up near a polling station in the Chechen capital Grozny.

Alkhanov also had received widespread coverage on local television and radio, while the six other candidates were seen little. Worries about terrorism were shaken by the crash of the Russian airliners five days before the election; officials said traces of explosives were found in the wreckage and there are suspicions two Chechen women conducted the suicide attacks.



Kremlin-favored candidate Ali Alkhanov, who won the presidential election in warring Chechnya, speaks to the media in the Chechen capital of Grozny on Monday.

Candidate Abdullah Bugayev said he had formally complained to election officials after seeing several violations, including an Alkhanov campaign worker who ordered people to vote for him at a polling station. A representative of Movsur Khamidov, another candidate, said he found ballot boxes at a polling place stuffed shortly after the station opened.

The election was part of the Kremlin's strategy to undermine support for separatist rebels who have been fighting Russian forces for nearly five years by inducing a sense of civil order in the republic.

An election last October based on that strategy brought Kadyrov to power, but he was killed in a bomb blast in Grozny, the Chechen capital, in May. Fighting, violent crime and abductions have continued unabated.

NATO authorities detain suspect in Kabul blast

U.S. tells citizens in Afghanistan to exercise caution

BY STEPHEN GRAHAM
The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Investigators probing a deadly car bombing in the Afghan capital questioned a man detained at the Kabul airport with traces of explosives on his hands, officials said Monday, while U.S. authorities warned all Americans in the capital to be inconspicuous.

Taliban rebels claimed responsibility for Sunday's blast at a U.S. security firm, but officials said they are not ruling out any suspects, including al-Qaida. Hospital officials said 10 people were killed, including three Americans.

NATO troops grew suspicious of a man on the grounds of the Kabul airport on Sunday, spokesman Lt. Cmdr. Ken Mackillop said. After finding explosives on his hands, NATO turned the man over to Afghan authorities on Monday. The man was not identified.

"There is a suspicion against him, but for now there is no link or proof that he was involved in yesterday's attack," Interior Ministry spokesman Latfullah Mashal said. The Taliban claimed responsibility for the blast at the office of DynCorp Inc., which provides bodyguards for Afghan President Hamid Karzai and works for the American government in Iraq.

Porn film crew captures foiled robbery on camera

The Associated Press

OSLO, Norway — Police fired shots and foiled an armed robbery of a cash transport in downtown Oslo early Monday, as the dramatic showdown was captured on video by a crew filming a pornographic movie nearby.

At least three robbers, their faces covered by ski masks, threatened the unarmed guards of a cash transport vehicle at about 1:30 a.m. Passers-by saw the robbery attempt and alerted police.

Hans Halvorsen, head of the Oslo police crime unit, said normally unarmed police were issued weapons, and reached the scene in time to catch the robbers in the act.

"The robbers were arrested with a significant amount of cash," he



Guards secure the site of an explosion Sunday in Kabul, Afghanistan. The powerful explosion struck an office of an American security firm in downtown Kabul, killing 10 people and leaving the building in flames, officials said.

Security officials have issued repeated warnings in recent weeks that militants could step up attacks to disrupt the country's landmark Oct. 9 presidential election.

On Monday, the U.S. Embassy e-mailed Americans in Kabul to tell them to limit their movements, take strict security measures and avoid "potential target areas" such as government offices, military bases and upscale restaurants frequented primarily by foreigners.

U.S. staff were also urged to stay off the streets.

Mullah Hakim Latifi, a man who claims to speak for the Taliban, said the Islamic radical group carried out the attack with a time bomb in a car. He warned that more attacks would follow.

"We appeal to civilians to stay away from the elections and places where the Americans and coalition are living and working," Latifi told The Associated Press by telephone from an undisclosed location. "They are our priority targets."

His claim could not be verified independently, and Mackillop said investigators, including the FBI and Interpol, had closed off no line of inquiry.

There were conflicting reports of the number killed in the attack, but hospitals said they were holding 10 bodies, making it the deadliest violence in Kabul since a car bomb killed 30 Afghans and wounded 150 on Sept. 5, 2002.

Associated Press writers Amir Shah in Kabul and Noor Khan in Kandahar contributed to this report.

I.N. Kosovo head meets on elections

BY MISHA SAVIC
The Associated Press

BELGRADE, Serbia-Montenegro — Kosovo's new U.N. administrator met Monday with top Serbian officials over key general elections in the troubled, U.N.-run province, where an embittered and dwindling Serb community has threatened to boycott the vote.

Soren Jessen-Petersen of Denmark, who became head of the U.N. Kosovo mission earlier this month, met with Foreign Minister Yul Draskovic, President Boris Tadic and Prime Minister Vojislav Kostunica.

"I need and I want to have an open, direct dialogue with the Belgrade (leadership), to make sure that I am aware of their concerns" while running the U.N. mission in Kosovo, Jessen-Petersen said after meeting Sunday.

Referring to scattered ethnically motivated violence against Serbs in Kosovo, the top U.N. official said his priority was to make "Kosovo secure for everybody living there."

Although the government in

Belgrade has no authority over Kosovo, it maintains some influence over Kosovo Serbs.

Jessen-Petersen declined to immediately disclose if he asked officials in Belgrade to try to persuade the Kosovo Serbs to take part in the province's general elections set for Oct. 25.

But U.N. spokesman Jeff Biele said that "Mr. Jessen-Petersen repeatedly has stated that staying out of the democratic process would damage the interests of the Serb community."

In the few elections held in Kosovo so far, Serbs took part only reluctantly, arguing that their situation was deteriorating regardless of their cooperation.

An escalation of anti-Serb violence in March left 19 people dead and several thousand Serbs homeless. Up to 200,000 Serbs fled in the aftermath of the 1998-1999 Kosovo war.

"We want to see Kosovo as a respectful member of the region," the U.N. official said. "I am very pleased with the first meeting" with the Serbian leadership since becoming the sixth chief administrator of the U.N. mission established in 1999.

Oldest German dies

STUTTGART, Germany — Germany's oldest person died in her sleep early Monday at age 111, according to her nursing home.

Lina Zimmer, one of six children, was born in 1892 when Kaiser Wilhelm II ruled Germany and horse-drawn carriages still rode down the main street of her hometown of Stuttgart.

The former dressmaker married Richard Zimmer, a graphic artist, in 1915 and spent 60 years with him before his death in 1975.

She celebrated her 111th birthday on Nov. 20 surrounded by family.

Zimmer once shared her secret for a long life: "Living sensibly, not getting excited and being content."

From The Associated Press

IN THE STATES

Bush: Even if unwinnable, terror must be fought

BY DEB RIECHMANN
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush says making the course in the war on terror will stay the world safer for future generations, though he acknowledges an all-out victory against terrorism may not be possible.

In an interview on NBC-TV's "Today" show broadcast to coincide with Monday's start of the Republican National Convention in New York, Bush said retreating from the war on terror "would be a disaster for your children."

Says U.S. must stay course to make world safer

"You cannot show weakness in this world today because the enemy will exploit that weakness," he said. "It will embolden them and make the world a more dangerous place."

When asked "Can we win?" the war on terror, Bush said, "I don't think you can win it. But I think you can create conditions so that the — those who use terror as a tool are — less acceptable in parts of the world."

White House spokesman Scott McClellan sought to clarify Bush's statement, saying the president was speaking about winning the war "in the conventional sense."

"I don't think you can expect that there will ever be a formal surrender or a treaty signed like we have in wars past," he said.

"That's what he was talking about. It requires a generational commitment to win this war on terrorism."

Nonetheless, Democratic vice presidential candidate John Edwards seized on the comment.

"After months of listening to the Republicans base their campaign on their singular ability to win the war on terror, the president now says we can't win the war on terrorism," the North Carolina senator said.

Before leaving for a campaign swing through New Hampshire and Michigan, Bush practiced the speech he'll deliver to the convention Thursday night when he accepts the GOP nomination for a second term.

Former New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani is surrounded by the media Monday during the first day of the Republican National Convention in New York.



GOP ratifies platform, portrays president as strong war leader

BY DAVID ESPO
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Republican National Convention delegates ratified President Bush's unflinching conservative re-election platform Monday, then settled in for a day of political oratory extolling him as a leader for all Americans in an age of terrorism.

Democratic challenger John Kerry is "weak on war and wrong on taxes," said House Speaker Dennis Hastert.

The delegates met at Madison Square Garden, four miles from the scarred landscape where the World Trade Center twin towers once stood. Officials mustered a security force of thousands in the area around the hall, part of an effort to thwart any attempt at a repeat attack. A helicopter circled the skies over the arena, while police barricades made an 18-square-block surrounding the area off-limits to most vehicles.

Inside the hall, Vice President Dick Cheney and his wife Lynne were ushered to their seats in time to hear his name placed in nomination for another term. "Four more years" the delegates shouted in unison.

Cheney speaks Wednesday night, followed by Bush's prime-time acceptance speech. Thursday, an appearance that marks the end of the convention season and the beginning of the fall campaign for the White House.

Polls show Bush in a tough race for re-election, and Kerry has been helped by surveys in which at least a strong plurality of Ameri-

cans say the country is headed in the wrong direction. At the same time, the president receives high marks from the public for his decisiveness and leadership. And recent attacks by an outside group of veterans on Kerry's decorated Vietnam War record have coincided with polls suggesting increased momentum for the president.

Democrats call the attacks a Republican-financed smear campaign.

The platform, crafted by Bush's specifications, lauded his response to the terrorist attacks.

"The president's most solemn duty is to protect our country, George W. Bush has kept that charge," it said.

Envisioning a new "ownership era," it also endorsed additional tax relief and major changes to Social Security allowing individuals to use a portion of their payroll taxes to establish personal retirement accounts.

The platform also calls for constitutional amendments to ban gay marriages and abortions, and upholds the administration's policy limiting federal funding for embryonic stem cell research to lines in existence as of three years ago.

The evening oratory was pitched at a different audience.

Sen. John McCain and Rudolph Giuliani had the featured speaking slots. The Arizona senator has strong appeal among independents and the former New York City mayor was widely praised for his actions in the wake of the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

Their appearances at the podium

were part of a larger convention-week effort by Republicans to broaden Bush's appeal beyond his conservative base. Both McCain and Giuliani oppose the constitutional amendment banning gay marriage.

New Yorkers were under persistent prodding to "play nice" with Republicans who showed up in large numbers in their overwhelmingly Democratic city.

Not everyone was so inclined. Some delegates said anti-Bush protesters greeted them with an upraised middle finger. "Inconvenient Republican Convention Sale" read a handwritten sign in one small store's back window from the arena.

Edwards accuses Bush of failed leadership in war

BY AARON BEARD
The Associated Press

WILMINGTON, N.C. — Vice presidential candidate John Edwards gave a sweeping denunciation of the Bush administration's foreign policy Monday, accusing the president of a "failure of leadership" as the Republican National Convention opened in New York City.

Speaking at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, Edwards cited the Abu Ghraib prison abuse in Iraq as an example and contended that the "climate for the terrible abuses was set because this administration sent our troops out to battle without a plan to win the peace."

Edwards sought to counter Republican critics, including Vice President Dick Cheney, who plan during the GOP convention to emphasize that Bush is the kind of "strong and steadfast" leader the country needs to continue the war against terrorists.

In an interview last week with The New York Times, Bush said he made a "miscalculation of what the conditions would be" after U.S. troops went to Iraq.

"The president called it a miscalculation," Edwards said. "You can call it anything you want, but

the truth is, it was a failure of leadership."

Other mistakes, according to Edwards, include going to war without strong allies, waiting for three years after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks to reform intelligence operations, turning its back on Afghanistan, failing to listen to the 9/11 commission, and standing by while North Korea and Iran advanced their nuclear weapons programs.

"But I don't need to tell you or the American people about all that's gone wrong in the last four years," he said. "You know."

Edwards said a Kerry administration would create a "Nuclear Whistleblower Initiative" in which the United States would give asylum and protection to any scientist in a foreign country, particularly Iran and North Korea — who discloses an illicit weapons program.

Steve Schmidt, a Bush campaign spokesman, called Edwards' claims "a series of baseless attacks from a Democratic tactic that's far outside the mainstream on these issues."

Schmidt said the accusations weren't credible because they came from a team that has advocated for a more "sensitive" war on terror and has claimed the war created more terrorists.

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As Gaston exits, Frances waits in the winds

By BRUCE SMITH
The Associated Press

MOUNT PLEASANT, S.C. — The second powerful storm to strike South Carolina in a month lashed the state with stinging rain and howling wind, knocking out power to thousands of people and flooding streets.

Even as Tropical Storm Gaston spun across the state Sunday, residents were being told to keep an eye on Hurricane Frances, a powerful storm heading for the Caribbean with 120 mph wind.

Residents "from Florida to the Carolinas should start monitoring the progress of this storm," Hugh Cobb, a meteorologist at the National Hurricane Center in Miami, said of Frances.

Though Gaston knocked out power to thousands, South Carolina officials said there was only one initial report of a serious injury — a Charleston County resident injured when a tree fell on a home.

"It just goes to show that the residents took the proper precautions that they needed to take and shows they were prepared," said Roland Windham, the Charleston County administrator.

Gaston made landfall Sunday morning near McClellanville, a small fishing village that was brushed by Hurricane Charley earlier this month when it came

ashore for a second time after devastating southwest Florida.

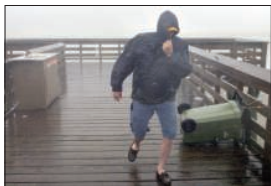
By early Monday, Gaston had crossed South Carolina and was the remains were moving northeast across North Carolina with wind gusting to around 35 mph. Flood watches were in effect for central and eastern North Carolina. It was the fourth storm to strike that state this month.

Hours after the eye of Gaston came ashore in South Carolina, steady sheets of rain drenched Mount Pleasant. Tree limbs littered flooded roadways, some of which were impassable.

Across the harbor in Charleston, Gaston flooded streets and toppled utility poles. At least 172,000 customers were without power at the height of the storm and a state of emergency was declared for the whole state. Some 86,000 customers remained without power Monday morning, including 50,000 in and around Charleston.

"The important thing is that we don't have any false sense of safety that it's all over," said Charleston Mayor Joseph P. Riley Jr. "We have downed trees, and often times there are power lines under those downed trees."

Gaston had maximum sustained wind of 70 mph when it hit land but quickly weakened to 45 mph by early afternoon. As much as 10 inches of rain fell in Charleston County.



Bill Bowman, of Fort Mill, S.C., braves the strong winds of Tropical Storm Gaston as he walks the Sea Cabins Villas pier on the Isle of Palms, S.C., on Sunday.
THE CHARLESTON, S.C., POST AND COURIER/AP



Cents and Sensibility Money tip of the day

Beware Bank of Bedrock

Los Angeles Times

Yabba dabba doo! Federal banking authorities put out an alert last week warning consumers to steer clear of a Web site linked with the "First National Bank of Bedrock."

The bank claims to be based in Bedrock, Colo. But according to the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, the institution is as phony as the town of Bedrock that "The Flintstones" call

home.

Regulators aren't sure whether First National Bank of Bedrock is a joke or a fraud, but they say consumers need to beware.

"There are a lot of scams out there," said Kevin Mukri, spokesman for the Comptroller. "Usually, they're after the same thing, personal information and account numbers. Unfortunately, these things pop up all the time. We will close down this one, but another one will pop up tomorrow."

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro	\$1.2360
British pound	\$1.8895
Japanese yen (Sept. 1)	107.00
S. Korean won (Aug. 31)	1,124.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.377
British pound	\$1.7895
Canada (Dollar)	1.3152
Denmark (Krone)	6.1785
Egypt (Pound)	6.2000
Euro	\$1.2016
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7951
Hungary (Forint)	206.87
Iceland (Krona)	72.35
Israel (Shekel)	4.5486
Japan (Yen)	110.27
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2947
Norway (Krone)	6.9406
Philippines (Peso)	56.16
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.75
Singapore (Dollar)	1.7140
S. Korea (Won)	1,123.10
Switzerland (Franc)	1.2799
Thailand (Baht)	1.6162
Turkey (Lira)	1,615.152

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

PRECIOUS METALS

London close	
Gold	\$404.63
Silver	\$6.59

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	4.50
Discount rate	2.50
Federal funds market rate	1.50
3-month bill	1.55
30-year bond	5.02

Sources: The Associated Press, Bank of America, Bloomberg.com

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Read their travel tales and tips on Thursdays in Travel.

STARS AND STRIPES
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Israeli official met with DOD spy suspect

BY KARIN LAUB
The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — A senior Israeli diplomat in Washington has met with a Pentagon analyst being investigated by the FBI on suspicion he passed classified information to Israel, Israeli officials confirmed Monday.

However, Israeli officials reiterated Monday that Israel does not have a spy at the Pentagon. Israeli Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom said meetings between Israeli embassy employees and U.S. government officials are commonplace, and that the two governments routinely share secrets.

"Israel and the United States have intimate ties ... and the information being exchanged is much more classified than any conversation that may have taken place," Shalom told a news conference.

U.S. officials say the FBI investigation focuses on Lawrence A. Franklin, an analyst of Iranian affairs who works in a Pentagon policy office headed by Douglas J. Feith, the undersecretary for policy. Feith has been accused by Democrats of seeking to manipulate intelligence to help make the case for going to war in Iraq. Congressional investigations have found no evidence of that.

The Israeli diplomat was identified as Naor Gilon, head of the political department at the Israeli Embassy in Washington, and a specialist on Iran's nuclear weapons program. Shalom did not mention Gilon by name, but when asked about contacts between Gilon and Franklin did not deny they had taken place.

The Israeli daily Maariv on Monday quoted Gilon as saying that he did nothing wrong.

"My hands are clean. I have nothing to hide," he said. "I acted according to the regulations."

Newsweek, citing U.S. intelligence officials, said that Franklin on one occasion allegedly tried to hand over a classified U.S. policy document on Iran, but that the Israeli diplomat refused to take it.

Maariv quoted Gilon sources as saying that Gilon did not take documents from Franklin, but had frequent meetings with him.

CIA fights against drive to place paramilitaries under DOD control

Wants operations to remain separate despite 9/11 commission suggestion

BY JOHN J. LUMPKIN
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Opening a rare window into a secret world, the CIA and the Pentagon are publicly fighting a proposal to centralize under Defense Department control the U.S. covert paramilitary operations used increasingly in recent years in Afghanistan and elsewhere.

The commission that investigated the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks recommended the change, but CIA and defense leaders insist they are not convinced of the need. They say CIA paramilitaries and military special operations forces each have distinct capabilities but work well together.

Besides, they say, there are some things that only the CIA can do.

"I would not accept that recommendation," acting director of Central Intelligence John McLaughlin testified to senators recently. "I think we have a perfect marriage now of CIA and military capabilities. CIA brings to the mix agility and speed. Military brings lethality."

The Sept. 11 commissioners had argued that having two such organizations within the government was redundant.

"Whether the price is measured in either money or people, the United States cannot afford to build two separate capabilities for carrying out secret military operations, secretly operating standoff missiles and secretly training foreign military or paramilitary forces," their report says.

"The United States should concentrate responsibility and necessary legal authorities in one entity."

The commissioners described a CIA plan in early 1998 to go after al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden using operatives from the spy agency and the military. The plan was ultimately scrubbed after senior CIA officials and some military officers registered concerns at the risks to U.S. forces and civilians.

Paramilitary operations include training pro-U.S. government or rebel forces, destabilizing governments and organizations through violence, and direct attacks on

enemy targets and people.

Such operations sometimes are overseen by the CIA and sometimes by special military units such as the Green Berets. Which

are used depending on the situation, the need for secrecy and the number of people required.

The CIA's paramilitary force was small before Sept. 11 but has expanded rapidly since. In contrast, the military's Special Operations Command numbers 49,000 people, including reservists, support personnel and 3,000 civilians.

One key distinction between the two is how they are ordered into action. Special operations troops are subject to the military chain of command, and also to various laws and international treaties governing the use of armed forces.

For the CIA paramilitaries to go into action, the president must sign a secret document that calls for a "finding" that governs their activities, and designated congressional leaders are informed.

Thus, those forces are used more often when secrecy is paramount.

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld is also cool to the idea of putting all paramilitary operations under his department's control.

"There are clearly things that the Central Intelligence Agency does that are covert that the Department of Defense ought not to do," he said.

Gen. Richard Myers said, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said, "There is not a lot of enthusiasm at this point for that kind of change," suggesting there's a

Two forms of secret operations

CIA paramilitary forces and the military's special operations forces — such as the Green Berets — can participate in similar covert missions but have notable differences.



	Military's special operations forces	CIA's paramilitaries
SIZE OF FORCE	49,000	Very small; size classified
HOW ORDERED INTO ACTION	Usual military chain of command	President must sign a secret document
OPERATIONAL DIFFERENCES	Bound by certain laws of engagement; spending for supplies must go through competitive bidding	May operate without uniforms or identification; more flexible with spending

AP

limit on what uniformed U.S. military personnel should be allowed to do.

The CIA's paramilitaries are part of the agency's covert operations arm, called the Special Activities Division. Some unit members specialize in propaganda and economic and political disruption.

Others, members of the Special Operations Group, are true warriors.

Unlike the Green Berets, the CIA officers can operate without uniforms or identification as U.S. government employees. If any are caught or killed, the government can plausibly deny involvement.



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Alexandra, left, and Vanessa Kerry, daughters of Democratic presidential nominee Sen. John Kerry, address the audience about the importance of voting. The Bush daughters also appeared at the show — on videotape.



The group OutKast performs during the MTV Video Music Awards in Miami on Sunday.

AP photo

MTV awards: A little political, a little polite

BY ADRIAN SAINZ
The Associated Press

MIAMI — There was no Madonna-Britney Spears kiss, no partially-clad Howard Stern coming down from the rafters, and certainly no wardrobe malfunctions.

The MTV Awards show on Sunday featured typical frenetic energy and sexy style, and a few musical surprises, but it was mostly a kinder, gentler version of past shows.

Usher showed as much skin as anybody, preening in front of the camera barechested as simulated raindrops fell on his chiseled body during the opening performance of "Burn." And the sometimes raunchy comedian Dave Chappelle even kept it relatively clean — despite teasing that he wouldn't.

"It's the biggest mistake you made since Janet Jackson at the

Super Bowl," he jokingly warned, alluding to the MTV-produced Super Bowl halftime flesh show that created a firestorm earlier this year.

The change of scenery to Miami — the show typically is held in New York or Los Angeles — helped raise the decadence level at the celebrity-soaked affair, held at the downtown American Airlines Arena.

Some celebrities arrived on the red carpet not by car, but by luxury yacht. "Newlyweds" stars Jessica Simpson and Nick Lachey arrived in a 68-foot boat.

OutKast's vivid "Hey Ya!" — perhaps best described as the old Ed Sullivan show on acid — won four awards, including video of the year. Jay-Z's "99 Problems," the most nominated video with six, also won four. That gritty black-and-white video depicts the singer's own killing as a meta-

Going home with moonmen

The Associated Press

List of winners for the 2004 MTV Video Music Awards:

Video of the year: OutKast, "Hey Ya!"

Awards:

Best pop video: No Doubt, "It's My Life"

Best rap video: Jay-Z, "99 Problems"

Best female video: Beyoncé, "Naughty Girl"

Best male video: Usher featuring Lil' Jon & Ludacris, "Yeah!"

Best R&B video: Alicia Keys, "If I Ain't Got You"

Best rock video: Jet, "Are You Gonna Be My Girl"

Breakthrough video: Franz Ferdinand, "Take Me Out"

Best director: Mark Romanek, "99 Problems"

Best special effects: OutKast, "Hey Ya!"

Best art direction: OutKast, "Hey Ya!"

Best editing: Jay-Z, "99 Problems"

Best cinematography: Jay-Z, "99 Problems"

Best choreography: Black Eyed Peas, "Hey Mama"

Best dance video: Usher, featuring Lil' Jon & Ludacris, "Yeah!"

Best hip-hop video: OutKast, "Hey Ya!"

Best group video: No Doubt, "It's My Life"

Best new artist in a video: Maroon 5, "This Love"

MTV2 award: Yellowcard, "Ocean Avenue"

Viewer's choice: Linkin Park, "Breaking the Habit"

phor for his much-ballyhooped retirement.

"I felt like I was trying to push the envelope," Jay-Z, dressed in a dapper white suit and hat, said as he accepted an award — called a

moonman after the channel's logo — for best rap video.

Usher won his first moonman as he took best male video for "Yeah!"

"This is my first time coming up here — let me take my time with this," a beaming Usher said.

As usual, the awards were an afterthought to explosive performances and surprise cameos.

Alicia Keys gave a dramatic, soulful spin of her hit "If I Ain't Got You," and was buoyed by Stevie Wonder on harmonica.

Moments later, she joined Wonder and Lenny Kravitz as they sang a classic Wonder hit, "Higher Ground."

Keys also appeared on stage to

honor the late Ray Charles, who died in June.

The daughters of Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry and President Bush made an appearance — the Bush daughters on videotape — to urge people to vote. Even the Rev. Al Sharpton made an appearance connected to voting — not for the election, though, but for the viewer's choice award.

The show, held a day before the Republican convention was to kick off in New York City, ended on a patriotic note, as red, white and blue balloons fell from the rafters and fans held "vote" signs during OutKast's closing performance.

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Jessica Simpson greets the crowd outside American Airlines Arena.

OPINION

Cast away Swift Boat Veterans for Truth

BY LARRY DALE KEELING
Lexington (Ky.) Herald-Leader

I served with John Kerry.

Well, sort of. I never rode on a Swift boat with him. Heck, I never heard of a Swift boat before this presidential campaign.

I wasn't in Vietnam with him. The closest I got to "in country" was an air base on Taiwan, where my unit provided logistical support for a facility that repaired fighter planes, some of which had flown the friendly skies of Nam.

We didn't wear the same uniform. Kerry was Navy; I was Air Force.

But I served with Kerry. We were both in the military for a six-month period between July 1969, when I went on active duty, and January 1970, when I was discharged from active duty.

A lot of guys my age — give or take a few years — can say truthfully, accurately, but oh-so-misleadingly, "I served with John Kerry," thereby gibbering their subsequent statements with a patina of undeserved credibility.

My claim to having served with Kerry is misleading in the extreme.

Similar claims by Swift Boat Veterans for Truth are misleading in less extreme, but misleading still.

None of them served his ads suggest boat, although their ads suggest

that they did. In varying degrees, these guys served with him on a broader sense, some on other Swift boats, some up the chain of command.

They tell one version of Kerry's Vietnam service. The guys who were actually in Kerry's boat tell a completely different version.

Who are we to believe? Well, now that we know Swift Boat Veterans for Truth is largely funded by a rich Texan who, along with his wife, gave \$3 million to Texas Republicans during the 2002 elections, that seems an easy call to make.

Making it easier still is the fact that these veterans are getting caught in the tangled web of their own deceit.

Larry Thurlow, another Swift boat commander, has claimed Kerry didn't deserve his Bronze Star and third Purple Heart because he wasn't under enemy fire when he pulled an Army lieutenant out of the river and into his boat. But The Washington Post recently reported that Thurlow won his own Bronze Star for courage under fire in the same incident.

Oops! "I know John Kerry is lying about his first Purple Heart because I treated him for that injury," Louis Letson claims in the ad.

But FactCheck.org, a nonpartisan nonprofit that "truth squads" political claims and ads across the

spectrum, says medical records do not list Letson as the person who treated Kerry's injury.

Oops! Then there is George Elliott, the retired Navy captain who recommended Kerry for a Silver Star. Elliott recently told The Boston Globe that he made "a terrible mistake" by suggesting in a recent affidavit that Kerry hadn't told him the truth about the incident that led to Kerry killing an enemy soldier and earning a Silver Star.

"I'm the one in trouble here... I knew it (the affidavit) was wrong," Elliott is quoted as saying. Then, a few days later he recanted his recant, signing a second affidavit that once again supported the ad.

Oops! While all these "Oppses" show clearly whose honesty and truthfulness really is in question (and it's not Kerry's), they do not speak to another central premise of the Swift Boat Veterans for Truth's attack ads: that Kerry betrayed veterans of Vietnam and his nation by becoming a vocal opponent of the war after leaving the Navy.

As I made clear earlier, I am not a Vietnam veteran. I am a veteran of the Vietnam era. Kerry did not betray me. And I think that some of the Vietnam veterans I've known, while I was in the service and afterward, would say that he did not betray them, either.

When I made my commitment to the Air Force as a 20-year-old



college student in 1967, I supported the war in Vietnam. When I went on active duty in 1969, I supported the war.

By the time I left the Air Force a few years later, I no longer supported the war. I supported the troops who were fighting it, as Kerry did, and I support them as veterans today, as Kerry does.

But the events that occurred during my years of service and the knowledge I gained from those events led me to believe that the war itself was wrong — a belief I still hold.

I also believe I have that in common with many veterans of that era who came to question, if not the reason for the war, at least its execution.

Kerry was one of those, one who showed his courage in battle and came home to demonstrate another kind of courage — the courage to stand up and tell his country it was following the wrong course.

Call him liberal. Call him a flip-flopper. Call him unfit to be president. But don't call him a traitor. What he did was the act of a true patriot.

Thanks to Allies in 1944, we'll always have Paris

BY RACHEL SPREIREGEN

I was 60 years ago this month, in Paris. I had been waiting a long time for this moment, when I would finally see the enemy in defeat.

Allow me now on this anniversary to be one voice for those who brought us our liberation that day.

I was a 17-year-old Jewish girl who had been hiding under an assumed name with forged identity papers in the Pigalle district of Paris. I'd been waiting since 1940, when France fell, since 1941, when the Germans came for my father, since 1943, when my 13-year-old sister and I — sole survivors of our family — had to abandon our home and go into hiding. It was marking time, focused on one great expectation: deliverance.

Hope was kept alive with "Les Français Parlent aux Français," the voice of De Gaulle's Free France broadcast from London. In the spring of 1944, the cryptic radio messages to resistance groups proliferated, unintelligible to us but obviously instructions to various networks operating in France, indicating increased activity and raising expectations. Something was in the air.

There were skeptics, in Paris and elsewhere. For me, and others like me, skepticism was impossible. We were caught in a deadly race between those who would find us out and send us to the death camps and those who carried with them our hopes for life — the Allied soldiers.

Then, early one morning, the wait over. Hurried footsteps on the stairs, and the maid of the small hotel where I had sought refuge came running down the narrow corridor, pounding at every door announcing breathlessly, "Ils ont débarqué! Ils ont débarqué!" — "They have landed! They have landed!"

The news struck like a thunderbolt. And yet all the joy welling up within us had to be contained. The Kommandant (headquarters of the German military command of occupied France) seemed to think we were being good. The midnight curfew was extended to 1 a.m. for this one day.

In mid-August, as Allied troops neared, the city of Paris rose. It was in a state of siege. The German garrison had been clearing out for days, leaving behind a beleaguered high command that no longer was in command. But no one knew when the end would come — or when we would be safe. Then one night church bells were set ringing, not in alarm but in triumph, the opening salvo of the liberation. A small detachment of Gen. Philippe Leclerc's Free French troops had entered Paris and was encamped at the Hotel de Ville, home of the municipal authorities, only a stone's throw from Notre Dame.

Paris was liberated the next day. I walked down deserted streets to the Place de l'Opera, eager to see what was happening, and by chance was near the Kommandantur when a contingent of Free French troops arrived. There was a brief firefight, and then it happened: the surrender of the German command. Parisians began emerging from buildings. The crowd was still sparse but we formed a chain, linked hands and spontaneously burst into "La Marseillaise," while German officers, hatless, in the air, marched down Avenue de l'Opera.

The nightwre was over. I was awed at the magnitude of the event I was witnessing. The German war machine was not invincible after all, and for me, it was the men of D-Day who had driven the point home. It was to them that I owed my freedom and my life.

Fifty years later, at Omaha Beach, on the

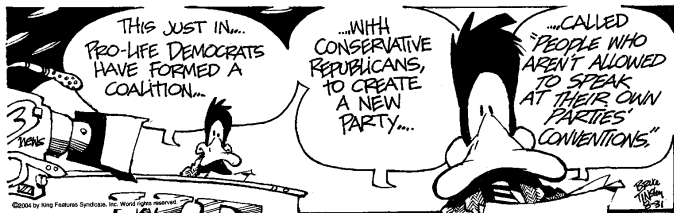
bluff overlooking the stretch of sand where the GIs had come ashore, I remembered D-Day. At the breathtaking military cemetery of Colleville-sur-Mer, where so many are interred, I had come to honor the men who a half-century earlier, on that day and at that very spot, had brought liberation to my country and to me. Few are left of these once-ordinary/extraordinary young men. They are dying every day, but for me they belong among the immortals. They came in peril of their lives and saved Europe.

Sixty years ago they marched down the Champs Elysees in an awesome parade of citizen-soldiers, shoulder to shoulder, filling the broad expanse of the avenue. The passing years have only intensified the emotion I felt as a young girl that August, and the gratitude to those who saved our future.

Rachel Spreiregen, who lives on her farm in France before and during the German occupation. This column first appeared in The Washington Post.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



Census bureau shakes up info-sharing policy

Agency will not turn over details about minorities to anti-terror officials without approval

The Associated Press

DEARBORN, Mich. — The U.S. Census Bureau says it is ending a practice of routinely turning over detailed information about Arabs or other minorities to anti-terrorism officials without high-level approval.

The Census Bureau revealed Aug. 13 that it had been reporting demographic data about Arab Americans to a Homeland

Security agency. The bureau said it only was providing population numbers and not names, addresses or other private details.

Responding to requests over the past two years from the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection, the Census Bureau said it had provided files that included a count of U.S. residents of Arab descent in certain ZIP codes. It said names and street addresses were not included.

The release drew sharp criticism from

some advocacy groups, which said it undermined the public's trust.

Census Director Louis Kincannon said data requests from law enforcement and intelligence agencies now must be approved by one of eight associate directors, the second highest-ranking officials in the Census Bureau. He said the policy will not keep police from getting similar numbers in the future, mainly because much of it is already available on the bureau's Web site.

But he told The Detroit News for a story Monday that it lets officials keep tabs on who requests information and how it is used.

"This is an important step in the right direction to restore people's confidence," said Imad Hamid, Dearborn-based Midwest director of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee. "But in many people's minds, the damage is already done. I only hope we can overcome this."

Drunken driver leaves decapitated passenger in truck while he sleeps

The Associated Press

MARIETTA, Ga. — A drunken driver hit a telephone pole support wire that decapitated his passenger, then drove 12 miles home and slept in his bloody clothes, leaving the headless body in his truck, police said.

A neighbor walking with his young daughter Sunday morning discovered Daniel Brohm's headless corpse in the truck in John Kemper Hutcherson's driveway and called authorities, said Cpl. Dana Pierce, county police spokesman.

Officers found Hutcherson

asleep inside his home. He was visibly drunk and his clothes were bloody, authorities said. They later found Brohm's severed head at the crash site.

"It's hard for one to imagine that you would drive miles from a crash site to your home, turning in various directions, and yet not know what has happened to a passenger sitting next to you," Pierce said.

Hutcherson, 21, was charged with vehicular homicide, driving under the influence and failure to stop at an accident with death or injury. He was jailed on a \$100,000 bond; it was unclear Monday whether he had an attorney.

Eight years later, man finds HIV test was a false-positive

The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — A California man who once tested positive for the virus that causes AIDS has learned the diagnosis made eight years ago was mistaken and he was never infected.

Jim Malone spent years battling depression and losing weight, expecting to die at any time. He attended support group meetings and accepted free meals from an AIDS charity.

Malone's main physician, Dr. Richard Karp, acknowledged the

error in an Aug. 4 letter to the Department of Veterans Affairs clinic where Malone was treated.

Malone, who is gay and has lost friends to AIDS, said he is relieved but angry at his doctor.

"He told me, 'We made a very big mistake. We did not do our job,'" he said. "I said, 'You mean to tell me that all you have to say is you are sorry? Sorry that I lived for all this time believing I was going to die?'"

The Oakland Department of Veterans Affairs is investigating.

The error may have occurred

because Malone arrived at the clinic in 1996 with lab results from a testing firm showing he had HIV, said Karen Pridmore, spokeswoman for the VA's Northern California Health Care System.

The clinic performed its own HIV test on Malone to confirm the first set of results and it came back negative, but that information was never shared with the patient, Pridmore said.

The mistake was uncovered by the VA's computer system, which tracks HIV patients and conducts a periodic review of cases.

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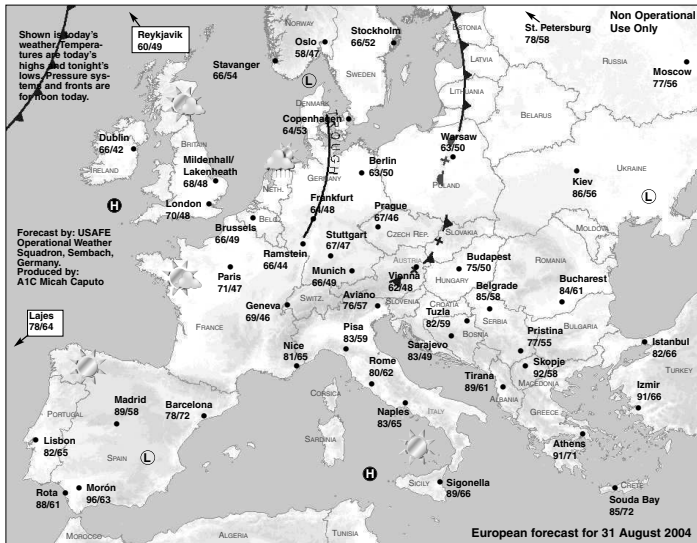
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EUROPEAN FORECAST

Benelux: Mostly cloudy with rainshowers. Highs in the mid 60s to lower 70s. Wednesday lows in the upper 40s to mid 60s.

Britain, Ireland: Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 60s to lower 70s. Wednesday lows in the lower to upper 40s.

Croatia and Bosnia: Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 60s. Wednesday lows in the lower 40s to lower 50s.

France: Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 60s to lower 70s. Wednesday lows in the mid 40s to mid 60s.

Northern Germany: Mostly cloudy with isolated rainshowers. Highs in the lower to mid 60s. Wednesday lows in the upper 40s to lower 50s.

Southern Germany: Mostly cloudy with isolated rainshowers. Highs in the mid to upper 60s. Wednesday lows in the mid to upper 40s.

Hungary: Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 70s. Wednesday lows in the lower 50s.

Northern Italy: Mostly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms. Highs in the mid 70s to lower 80s. Wednesday lows in the upper 50s.

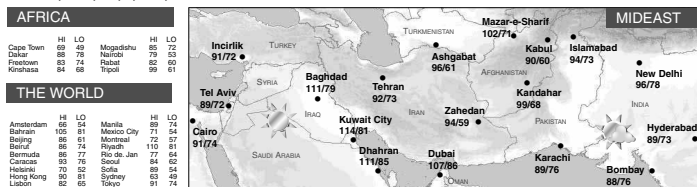
Southern Italy: Sunny. Highs in the lower 60s. Wednesday lows in the lower to mid 60s.

Kosovo: Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid to upper 70s. Wednesday lows in the upper 40s to mid 50s.

Norway: Cloudy with rainshowers. Highs in the upper 50s mid 60s. Wednesday lows in the upper 40s to mid 50s.

Portugal, Spain: Sunny. Highs in the upper 70s to mid 80s. Wednesday lows in the upper 50s to mid 70s.

Turkey: Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 80s to lower 90s. Wednesday lows in the mid 60s to lower 70s.



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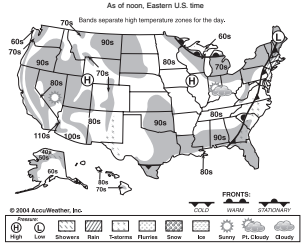
SUN & MOON

	Today	Tomorrow
Sunrise (Baghdad)	6:37 AM	6:37 AM
Sunrise (Frankfurt)	6:40 AM	6:41 AM
Sunset (Baghdad)	7:29 PM	7:28 PM
Sunset (Frankfurt)	8:11 PM	8:09 PM

TODAY'S STATESIDE OUTLOOK

	HI	LO	OK
Alabama	87	64	PC
Alaska	75	56	PC
Arizona	78	57	PC
Arkansas	78	57	PC
California	80	71	PC
Colorado	80	63	PC
Connecticut	82	61	PC
Delaware	82	61	PC
District of Columbia	82	61	PC
Florida	82	61	PC
Georgia	82	61	PC
Hawaii	82	61	PC
Idaho	82	61	PC
Illinois	82	61	PC
Indiana	82	61	PC
Iowa	82	61	PC
Kansas	82	61	PC
Kentucky	82	61	PC
Louisiana	82	61	PC
Maine	82	61	PC
Maryland	82	61	PC
Massachusetts	82	61	PC
Michigan	82	61	PC
Minnesota	82	61	PC
Mississippi	82	61	PC
Missouri	82	61	PC
Montana	82	61	PC
Nebraska	82	61	PC
Nevada	82	61	PC
New Hampshire	82	61	PC
New Jersey	82	61	PC
New Mexico	82	61	PC
New York	82	61	PC
North Carolina	82	61	PC
North Dakota	82	61	PC
Ohio	82	61	PC
Oklahoma	82	61	PC
Oregon	82	61	PC
Pennsylvania	82	61	PC
Rhode Island	82	61	PC
South Carolina	82	61	PC
South Dakota	82	61	PC
Tennessee	82	61	PC
Texas	82	61	PC
Utah	82	61	PC
Vermont	82	61	PC
Virginia	82	61	PC
Washington	82	61	PC
West Virginia	82	61	PC
Wisconsin	82	61	PC
Wyoming	82	61	PC

THE UNITED STATES TODAY



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STARS AND STRIPES
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Body found on roof

NY NEW YORK — A body was found by construction workers on the roof of a church on Manhattan's Upper West Side.

The victim was believed to be a 30-year-old man who was reported missing. The cause of death was unknown, but investigators suspect foul play, police said.

The workers found the body in a rooftop construction shed at St. Paul & St. Andrew Methodist Church on West 86th Street, police said.

Man robs bank to buy car

UT SOUTH OGDEN — Zachary Hayden liked the car; he only needed to stop at the bank to get some money. The problem is, police said, he didn't need an account there.

Authorities said Hayden, 31, of Warsaw, Ind., robbed the Wells Fargo Bank after test driving a Ford Escort from the Good-One Auto Sales and then used the car for his getaway.

More than six hours after the robbery, Nevada Highway Patrol pulled the car over near Ely, Nev., about 200 miles southwest of South Ogden. It still had the white, price numbers — \$1,895 — on the window and dealer license plates.

Like any good salesman, Trent Goodwin tried to put a positive spin on the situation.

"Our deals are so good, bank robbers shop here," he said.

Banana Split Day

PA PITTSBURGH — University of Pittsburgh alumni have won the Nobel Prize, played in the National Football League and unlocked the secrets of DNA. The university celebrated a less prestigious but equally sweet accomplishment by one of its own — the banana split.

Pitt declared "Banana Split Day" and celebrated the dessert's 100th birthday by serving about 4,000 ice cream cones to students, family members and others returning to campus for the new school year.

Ice cream aficionados believe David E. Strickler, a 1906 graduate of Pitt's School of Pharmacy, created the first banana split in 1904 when he was an apprentice at Tassell Pharmacy in Latrobe, Pa.

Herpes lawsuit

VA VIRGINIA BEACH — A lawsuit that accuses a Virginia Beach man of intentionally passing herpes to his lover may have implications for state law on fornication between unmarried adults.

Attorneys for a woman identified only as Jane Doe filed suit this month in Circuit Court, claiming that a Virginia Beach man gave the woman genital herpes after the two began having sexual relations in April.

In court papers, the man's attorney claims the woman broke a state law that forbids sexual intercourse outside marriage, and therefore cannot claim injury.

Matthew W. Smith, the woman's attorney, said the Virginia Supreme Court has ruled it is illegal for a man to cause damage to an injury that occurs while breaking a law. But he thinks that ruling will not stand up today.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Boy fatally shoots father

TX HOUSTON — A 10-year-old boy fatally shot his father after the man came to pick him and his brother up for a weekend visit, authorities said.

Rick James Lohstroh, 41, was shot several times as he sat in the front seat of his sport utility vehicle, said Sgt. B.E. Williams of the Harris County Sheriff's Department. The boy was sitting in the back seat.

After firing shots through the back seat, the boy got out of the vehicle and continued to fire at it, Williams said. Lohstroh, a doctor at the University of Texas Medical Branch, died on the way to a hospital.

Preliminary reports indicate that the boy did not want to visit his father. Lohstroh and the boy's mother shared custody of the children.

The gun belonged to the boy's mother, Williams said.

Seal bites tourist

HI POIPIU — An endangered Hawaiian monk seal bit a tourist at Kauai's Poiipu Beach after the man showed the seal out of the way, officials said.

The 64-year-old man was not seriously injured in the confrontation in waters fronting the Sheraton Kauai Hotel.

He received a tetanus shot and



Letting go

Dr. Bridget Duggan, of the Woods Hole Science Aquarium, releases a Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle at Doves Beach, in Osterville, Mass. Four of the endangered turtles were released into the ocean after six months of rehabilitation at aquariums in Massachusetts.

antibiotics.

"The individual got aggressive with the seal. He was trying to get to shore and he tried to push the seal away," said Brad Ryon, a marine biologist with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. "I talked to him afterward and he was more embarrassed than anything."

Teen defends shirt

GA ATLANTA — The town of Hempstead, N.Y., has a message for Gwinnett County administrators: Before you target a student wearing a Hempstead shirt, look at a map.

Terrell Jones, a student in Gwinnett County's Grayson High School, was weeded out of a classroom by a school administrator because he wore a shirt that read: "Hempstead, NY 516," a reference to the Long Island town and its telephone area code.

According to Jones' family, which moved from Hempstead to the Atlanta suburb, the school thought the shirt referred to marijuana.

Jones wasn't allowed to return to class until he persuaded school officials to search the Internet for the town name.

The student's father, James Jones, said he wants an apology for the incident.

Terrell Jones says he will keep wearing the shirt to school.

Woman delivers at home

MA BOSTON — An internal investigation is under way at Brigham and Women's Hospital after a pregnant woman, who twice was sent home by the medical staff, gave birth to a son on the bathroom floor of her apartment.

Denia Baez, 30, nine months pregnant with her fourth child, went to Brigham and Women's saying she felt ill and was bleeding slightly. However, hospital staff determined that she didn't have the strong, regular contractions that indicate the final phases of labor, and sent her home, she told the Boston Herald from her hospital bed.

Baez stepped out of the bathtub at home, felt labor pains and told her husband, Cesarin Arias, 29, that the baby was coming. Shortly, Jeremy Arias was born on the bathroom floor.

Baez and her 9-pound, 2-ounce baby were healthy and resting at Brigham and Women's, but the hospital's obstetrics chief said he would review her records and talk to Baez.

Flood waters hit hard

OH LISBON — Flood waters rushed through rural northeast Ohio over the weekend, ripping houses from their foundations and tearing a 65-foot deep crater into a road, authorities said.

A couple was killed in a crash on a rain-drenched highway, while a man whose home was carried off was found unharmed in a tree, authorities said.

Six inches of rain fell in just six hours from Friday night until Sunday morning, according to the National Weather Service.

About 4,000 people in the area do not have electricity, while the town of Lisbon does not have water because several major water lines broke in the storm.



Big breakfast meal

Fairgoers view a giant bagel that was created by Bruegger's Bagels at the annual New York State Fair in Geddes, N.Y. The bagel weighed 868 pounds, measured six feet in diameter and required a small crane to hoist it out of its custom-built oven.



Sunset juggler

Street performer Chet Mitchell, of Paradise, Mich., juggles as the sun sets on vacationers and local residents at the celebration of the sunset during the Petoskey Festival on the Bay in Michigan.



Discount shopper

Sara Bertrand, 8, left, bounces an exercise ball as she waits in line to pay for it with her mother, Linda Farish, right, at the state Department of General Services sale in Sacramento, Calif. The DGS is selling off surplus office equipment and computers, along with cars, espresso machines and baseball cards the state has accumulated over the years.



Beautiful view

A rainbow arches across the Columbia River Gorge to Oregon near Cape Horn, Wash.



A walk in the sun

A small child runs across a stone bridge at Colt State Park in Bristol, R.I. Visitors enjoyed the sun and cool bay breezes at the park.



One potato, two potato

Manuel Ramirez removes debris from the potato conveyor belt during the first day of harvest at the Martin Farms in Fort Hall, Idaho. The potatoes are destined to be made into french fries.



Steeple makeover

Randy Fish, left, Gary Talbot, top right, and Al Fautaux paint the steeple of United Church of Christ in Keene, N.H. The crew works for Al Fautaux Roofing and Steeplejack of Keene.

Landlord charged

NY ITHACA — A college student called police after discovering a pinhole camera in the bathroom of the apartment she shared with three women, and now her landlord is charged with unlawful surveillance.

David A. Church, 44, of Ithaca, faces four counts of unlawful video surveillance, a felony that can draw up to four years in prison.

Church owns several rental properties near Cornell University.

Police said they searched two other apartments and found two pinhole cameras and several video recordings of at least four students.

Inmate escapes

VA DANVILLE — A Danville prisoner dumped his inmate clothes in a garbage bin and walked off a work crew wearing only a T-shirt, boxer shorts and work boots, authorities said.

Danville Sheriff's Maj. Ronnie Ball said Michael Dean Turner, 25, was last seen getting into a two-door, gray-green Toyota Corolla.

Turner was awaiting transfer to the Department of Corrections after his July conviction for attempting to sell cocaine. He was sentenced to 10 years in prison, with five years suspended on the condition that he spend one year on probation.

He could be charged with felony escape, punishable by up to five years in prison and a \$2,500 fine.

Biplane crash kills 1

WI PORT EDWARDS — A biplane giving rides for a fund-raiser in central Wisconsin crashed upside down in a river Saturday morning, killing a Michigan woman, authorities said.

The 1941 Stearman biplane's landing gear struck power lines before it crashed into about 3 feet of water in the Wisconsin River, said Wood County Sheriff's Sgt. Tim Ward.

A 39-year-old passenger visiting the Wisconsin Rapids area with her husband, children and mother was killed.

Pilot Mark Strub, 42, was unable to free the woman and ran a half-mile to a local paper mill to call for help, Sheriff Kurt Heuer said.

Strub was taken to an area hospital, but did not appear to be injured or under the influence, Ward said. The Federal Aviation Administration was investigating the accident.

Search warrant voided

AK ANCHORAGE — Police cannot execute a search warrant in a person's home for possession of less than 4 ounces of marijuana, the Alaska Court of Appeals ruled.

The court ruled in the case of Leo Richardson Crocker, who was charged with controlled substance misconduct after police, acting on a tip, searched his home and found marijuana and growing equipment.

A lower court ruled the search warrant that led to the arrest should have never been issued and suppressed the evidence against

Crocker. The appeals court agreed.

To execute a search warrant, police must have reason to believe the amount of marijuana exceeds 4 ounces or is being used in connection with a crime, the appeals court said.

Attorney General Gregg Renkes said the ruling could hamstring police efforts to stop marijuana growers. He planned to appeal to the state Supreme Court.

Bars can't bet on poker

CT HARTFORD — Bars betting on poker tournaments to bring in some extra cash will have to stop. The state Division of Special Revenue has issued a statement saying the tournaments violate state laws. Under state regulations, gambling is classified as a criminal misdemeanor unless all the players can prove they are friends or co-workers who see each other away from poker tables.

Bank lawsuit settled

SC SPARTANBURG — Elizabeth Davis, whose parents were killed in a Greer bank robbery last year, settled her lawsuit with Blue Ridge Savings Bank. Details of the settlement weren't released. Davis claimed the bank, located in a mobile home, failed to meet security requirements and failed to warn customers of risks. Blue Ridge employee Sylvia Holtzclaw also was killed in the robbery. No one was charged in the deaths.

Guilty plea in murder

ND BISMARCK — A man who called police to confess to a 1990 killing has pleaded guilty to murder. Edward Reitan, 51, may face a 30-year sentence. Authorities say Reitan called the sheriff's office in May from a phone across the street to turn himself in for the 1990 killing of Driscoll farmer Robin Enockson.

Reitan was arrested after describing the crime in detail to investigators.

Free tuition for students

AZ TUCSON — The Arizona Board of Regents authorized the state's three public universities to award free tuition to high school students who score high on the state's graduation test. High school juniors must exceed expectations in math, reading and writing or exceed standards on two and meet standards on the third.

Students also would have to meet existing honors endorsement criteria.

Police chief sworn in

HI HONOLULU — Boise Correa was sworn in as the new Honolulu police chief.

Correa, 58, is the ninth chief in HPD history and replaces Lee Donohue, who retired July 1 after a 40-year career.

Correa has held the rank of assistant chief since 1998, overseeing patrol operations and the Traffic Division.

Correa, who's 6-foot-6 and 255 pounds, was signed by the NFL's Cleveland Browns in 1970 but changed his mind and decided to become a police officer.

Stories and photos from wire services.



MIRAMAX FILMS/AP

The acclaimed martial-arts epic "Hero," starring Jet Li, center, beat out reptiles and killers to become the top grossing film this weekend.

'Hero' prevails at box office

Martial-arts epic fights to No. 1 spot, raking in \$17.8 million

BY DAVID GERMAIN

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — "Hero," Jet Li's acclaimed martial-arts epic, vanquished giant snakes, serial killers and a gang of superbabies to debut as the top weekend film with \$17.8 million.

"Anacondas: The Hunt for the Blood Orchid," a sequel to 1997's monster-serpent flick, opened in second place with \$13.2 million, according to studio estimates Sunday.

The weekend's other new movies debuted weakly. The serial-killer tale "Suspect Zero," starring Aaron Eckhart, Ben Kingsley and Carrie-Anne

Moss, came in at No. 10 with \$3.4 million.

"Superbabies: Baby Geniuses 2," a follow-up to the 1999 kid flick, finished at No. 11 with \$3.3 million.

The previous weekend's No. 1 movie, "Exorcist: The Beginning," tumbled to fifth-place with \$6.7 million.

Overall, the top 12 movies grossed \$84.7 million, virtually unchanged over the same weekend a year ago.

With Hollywood's summer season wrapping up over Labor Day weekend, the industry will finish slightly ahead of summer 2003's revenue record of \$3.9 billion. But factoring in higher admission prices, the number of tickets sold will lag a bit behind last summer's.

"Hero," nominated for the foreign-language Academy Award for 2002, is director Zhang Yimou's saga of China some 2,000 years ago.

The film stars Li, Maggie Cheung, Zhang Zhi, Chen Dao Ming, Tony Leung Chiu-Wai and Donnie Yen, a lineup of Asian superstars that distributor Miramax calls the "Ocean's Eleven" of Chinese films.

"It obviously hit a nerve and certainly bodes well for Chinese films and foreign-language films," said Rick Sands, chief operating officer at Miramax, which opened "Hero" in 2,031 theaters, unusually wide for a foreign-language movie. "We believed in the movie and went for it."

Top 10 movies

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at North American theaters, according to Exhibitor Relations Co. Inc.

1. "Hero," \$17.8 million.
2. "Anacondas: The Hunt for the Blood Orchid," \$13.2 million.
3. "Without a Paddle," \$8.7 million.
4. "Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement," \$8.1 million.
5. "Exorcist: The Beginning," \$6.7 million.
6. "Collateral," \$6.3 million.
7. "Open Water," \$5 million.
8. "Alien vs. Predator," \$4.8 million.
9. "The Bourne Supremacy," \$4.6 million.
10. "Suspect Zero," \$3.4 million.

AFRTS Television Schedule

Updated sports listings are available on the first Scoreboard page in the sports section or AFN's Web site at <http://myafn.dodmedia.mil/>

TUESDAY, AUGUST 31, 2004					
(AFN-EUROPE)	(AFN-KOREA)	(AFN-NEWS)	(AFN-SPORTS)	(SPECTRUM)	(AFN-PACIFIC)
9:00 Dr. Phil	Taina	Nightline	MLB Baseball Teams to Be Announced.	The Wild Thornberrys	Lizzie McGuire
10:00 All That	All That	Corps News	SpongeBob	All That	All That
10:00 Oprah Winfrey	Jopardy!	Hardball With Chris Matthews	The Simpsons	Jopardy!	Jopardy!
10:30 Guiding Light	Wheel of Fortune	ESPNs	Happy Days	Headline News	Headline News
11:00 ESPNs	ESPNs	CNN Daybreak	ER	ESPNs	Pacific Report
11:30 General Hospital	Advisory Block	The O'Reilly Factor	SportsCenter	ER 'A Thousand Crises'	NFL Preseason Football
12:00 Judge Judy	NFL Preseason Football	Football	ER 'A Thousand Crises'	NFL Preseason Football	NFL Preseason Football
12:30 Judge Judy	NFL Preseason Football	Football	ER 'A Thousand Crises'	NFL Preseason Football	NFL Preseason Football
13:00 Today Orlando Jones	Good Morning America	NASCAR Racing Nextel Cup Series	The Residents Difficult Questions	Movie *** 'Silverado' (1985, Warner)	Headline News
13:30 makeover results.	Good Morning America	NASCAR Racing Nextel Cup Series	The Residents Difficult Questions	Movie *** 'Silverado' (1985, Warner)	Headline News
14:00	Good Morning America	NASCAR Racing Nextel Cup Series	The Residents Difficult Questions	Movie *** 'Silverado' (1985, Warner)	Headline News
14:30	Good Morning America	NASCAR Racing Nextel Cup Series	The Residents Difficult Questions	Movie *** 'Silverado' (1985, Warner)	Headline News
15:00	Good Morning America	NASCAR Racing Nextel Cup Series	The Residents Difficult Questions	Movie *** 'Silverado' (1985, Warner)	Headline News
15:30	Good Morning America	NASCAR Racing Nextel Cup Series	The Residents Difficult Questions	Movie *** 'Silverado' (1985, Warner)	Headline News
16:00	Good Morning America	NASCAR Racing Nextel Cup Series	The Residents Difficult Questions	Movie *** 'Silverado' (1985, Warner)	Headline News
16:30	Good Morning America	NASCAR Racing Nextel Cup Series	The Residents Difficult Questions	Movie *** 'Silverado' (1985, Warner)	Headline News
17:00	Good Morning America	NASCAR Racing Nextel Cup Series	The Residents Difficult Questions	Movie *** 'Silverado' (1985, Warner)	Headline News
17:30	Good Morning America	NASCAR Racing Nextel Cup Series	The Residents Difficult Questions	Movie *** 'Silverado' (1985, Warner)	Headline News
18:00	Good Morning America	NASCAR Racing Nextel Cup Series	The Residents Difficult Questions	Movie *** 'Silverado' (1985, Warner)	Headline News
18:30	Good Morning America	NASCAR Racing Nextel Cup Series	The Residents Difficult Questions	Movie *** 'Silverado' (1985, Warner)	Headline News
19:00	Good Morning America	NASCAR Racing Nextel Cup Series	The Residents Difficult Questions	Movie *** 'Silverado' (1985, Warner)	Headline News
19:30	Good Morning America	NASCAR Racing Nextel Cup Series	The Residents Difficult Questions	Movie *** 'Silverado' (1985, Warner)	Headline News
20:00	Good Morning America	NASCAR Racing Nextel Cup Series	The Residents Difficult Questions	Movie *** 'Silverado' (1985, Warner)	Headline News
20:30	Good Morning America	NASCAR Racing Nextel Cup Series	The Residents Difficult Questions	Movie *** 'Silverado' (1985, Warner)	Headline News
21:00	Good Morning America	NASCAR Racing Nextel Cup Series	The Residents Difficult Questions	Movie *** 'Silverado' (1985, Warner)	Headline News
21:30	Good Morning America	NASCAR Racing Nextel Cup Series	The Residents Difficult Questions	Movie *** 'Silverado' (1985, Warner)	Headline News
22:00	Good Morning America	NASCAR Racing Nextel Cup Series	The Residents Difficult Questions	Movie *** 'Silverado' (1985, Warner)	Headline News
22:30	Good Morning America	NASCAR Racing Nextel Cup Series	The Residents Difficult Questions	Movie *** 'Silverado' (1985, Warner)	Headline News
23:00	Good Morning America	NASCAR Racing Nextel Cup Series	The Residents Difficult Questions	Movie *** 'Silverado' (1985, Warner)	Headline News
23:30	Good Morning America	NASCAR Racing Nextel Cup Series	The Residents Difficult Questions	Movie *** 'Silverado' (1985, Warner)	Headline News
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2004					
00:00	11:00 Today Orlando Jones, makeover results.	NBC Nightly News	SportsCenter	11:00 "Silverado" (1985, Warner)	11:00 Today Orlando Jones, makeover results.
1:00	MLB Baseball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	Sesame Street (E)	U.S. Open Tennis Day 2	The Wild Thornberrys	Sesame Street (E)
1:30	MLB Baseball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	Sesame Street (E)	U.S. Open Tennis Day 2	The Wild Thornberrys	Sesame Street (E)
2:00	Blue's Clues 'Signs'	Countdown With Keith Urban	The Simpsons	Blue's Clues 'Signs'	Blue's Clues 'Signs'
2:30	Blue's Clues 'Signs'	Countdown With Keith Urban	Happy Days	Wheel of Fortune	Wheel of Fortune
3:00	Dr. Phil	Hannity & Colmes	The Amazing Race	Dr. Phil	Dr. Phil
3:30	ESPNs	Oprah Winfrey	The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer	Andromeda: Last Call at the Broken Hammer	Oprah Winfrey
4:00	ESPNs	NSC Nightly News	SET Nightly News	Mail Call	NSC Nightly News
4:30	ESPNs	Judge Judy	Business Rpt.	Legends of Airpower	Judge Judy
5:00	ESPNs	Access Hollywood	Larry King Live	Secrets of War	Access Hollywood
5:30	Headline News	Guiding Light	America Votes 2004	Guiding Light	Guiding Light
6:00	Headline News	Access Hollywood	Larry King Live	Access Hollywood	Access Hollywood
6:30	Headline News	Guiding Light	America Votes 2004	Guiding Light	Guiding Light
7:00	Sesame Street (E)	General Hospital	Larry King Live	General Hospital	General Hospital
7:30	General Hospital	Larry King Live	America Votes 2004	General Hospital	General Hospital
8:00	Blue's Clues 'Signs'	Larry King Live	America Votes 2004	General Hospital	General Hospital
8:30	Wheel of Fortune	Mechanics for Kids	MLB Baseball Teams to Be Announced.	The Wild Thornberrys	Mechanics for Kids
9:00	Dr. Phil	Strangely Strange	MLB Baseball Teams to Be Announced.	The Wild Thornberrys	Mechanics for Kids
9:30	Dr. Phil	Jopardy!	MLB Baseball Teams to Be Announced.	The Wild Thornberrys	Mechanics for Kids
10:00	Oprah Winfrey	Hardball With Chris Matthews	MLB Baseball Teams to Be Announced.	The Wild Thornberrys	Mechanics for Kids
10:30	Guiding Light	Wheel of Fortune	MLB Baseball Teams to Be Announced.	The Wild Thornberrys	Mechanics for Kids
11:00	ESPNs	CNN Daybreak	MLB Baseball Teams to Be Announced.	The Wild Thornberrys	Mechanics for Kids
11:30	General Hospital	Advisory Block	MLB Baseball Teams to Be Announced.	The Wild Thornberrys	Mechanics for Kids
12:00	Headline News	Whose Line?	MLB Baseball Teams to Be Announced.	The Wild Thornberrys	Mechanics for Kids
12:30	Judge Judy	The Simple Life	MLB Baseball Teams to Be Announced.	The Wild Thornberrys	Mechanics for Kids
13:00	Today Today Throws a Wedding: Shanté Adams	Fear Factor 'AI Female Show'	MLB Baseball Teams to Be Announced.	The Wild Thornberrys	Mechanics for Kids
13:30	Today Today Throws a Wedding: Shanté Adams	Fear Factor 'AI Female Show'	MLB Baseball Teams to Be Announced.	The Wild Thornberrys	Mechanics for Kids
14:00	Las Vegas 'Year of the Tiger'	Las Vegas 'Year of the Tiger'	MLB Baseball Teams to Be Announced.	The Wild Thornberrys	Mechanics for Kids
14:30	Pacific Report	Headline News	MLB Baseball Teams to Be Announced.	The Wild Thornberrys	Mechanics for Kids
15:00	Sybil & Twenty	The Tonight Show	MLB Baseball Teams to Be Announced.	The Wild Thornberrys	Mechanics for Kids
15:30	Teamo Supremo (E)	The Early Show	MLB Baseball Teams to Be Announced.	The Wild Thornberrys	Mechanics for Kids
16:00	Mechanics for Kids	Late Show	MLB Baseball Teams to Be Announced.	The Wild Thornberrys	Mechanics for Kids
16:30	Strangely Strange	Late Show	MLB Baseball Teams to Be Announced.	The Wild Thornberrys	Mechanics for Kids
17:00	Jopardy!	Late Show	MLB Baseball Teams to Be Announced.	The Wild Thornberrys	Mechanics for Kids
17:30	Headline News	Access Hollywood	MLB Baseball Teams to Be Announced.	The Wild Thornberrys	Mechanics for Kids
18:00	ESPNs	Movie *** 'A Crime of Passion' (1999, Drama)	MLB Baseball Teams to Be Announced.	The Wild Thornberrys	Mechanics for Kids
18:30	AFN Evening News	Movie *** 'A Crime of Passion' (1999, Drama)	MLB Baseball Teams to Be Announced.	The Wild Thornberrys	Mechanics for Kids
19:00	Simple Rules	Movie *** 'A Crime of Passion' (1999, Drama)	MLB Baseball Teams to Be Announced.	The Wild Thornberrys	Mechanics for Kids
19:30	The Simple Life	Movie *** 'A Crime of Passion' (1999, Drama)	MLB Baseball Teams to Be Announced.	The Wild Thornberrys	Mechanics for Kids
20:00	Fear Factor 'AI Female Show'	Movie *** 'A Crime of Passion' (1999, Drama)	MLB Baseball Teams to Be Announced.	The Wild Thornberrys	Mechanics for Kids
20:30	Las Vegas 'Year of the Tiger'	Movie *** 'A Crime of Passion' (1999, Drama)	MLB Baseball Teams to Be Announced.	The Wild Thornberrys	Mechanics for Kids
21:00	Las Vegas 'Year of the Tiger'	Movie *** 'A Crime of Passion' (1999, Drama)	MLB Baseball Teams to Be Announced.	The Wild Thornberrys	Mechanics for Kids
21:30	Headline News	Movie *** 'A Crime of Passion' (1999, Drama)	MLB Baseball Teams to Be Announced.	The Wild Thornberrys	Mechanics for Kids
22:00	The Tonight Show	Headline News	MLB Baseball Teams to Be Announced.	The Wild Thornberrys	Mechanics for Kids
22:30	Today Today Throws a Wedding: Shanté Adams	Headline News	MLB Baseball Teams to Be Announced.	The Wild Thornberrys	Mechanics for Kids
23:00	Today Today Throws a Wedding: Shanté Adams	Headline News	MLB Baseball Teams to Be Announced.	The Wild Thornberrys	Mechanics for Kids
23:30	Late Show	Headline News	MLB Baseball Teams to Be Announced.	The Wild Thornberrys	Mechanics for Kids

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FACES 'N' PLACES



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY MORGAN LOOSLI AP

Songwriter and singer Norah Jones performs at the Old Opera in Frankfurt, Germany, on April 30. Jones has become more comfortable with life on the road and with her musical career and believes she has grown as an artist. Her latest album, "Feels Like Home," has more of a country sound than her debut, "Come Away With Me," and it energizes crowds at concerts. "Feels Like Home" sold more than 1 million copies in its first week of release.

Hilton puts her life in writing

Paris Hilton is trying on a new outfit: a hard cover. The model-reality TV star has written a 198-page memoir, "Confessions of an Heiress: A Tongue-in-Chic Peek Behind the Pose."

Though the missing Chihuahua saga was too recent to make the book, Hilton writes about her youth as an heiress in a "really close" family. Excerpts of the book (to hit shelves Sept. 7) are in the Aug. 27 edition of People magazine.

Her "Confessions" reveal a girl not as confident as the runway model frequently seen in the tabloids.

Hilton's memoirs are not without fashion tips, either.

"Trust me, people act differently to you when you've got jewelry on your head."



Hilton

Winfrey: One murder trial is enough

Oprah Winfrey said she would not want to serve as a juror in a murder trial again, but she enjoyed getting to

know her fellow jurors — and invited them to her show to talk about the experience.

Winfrey was one of 12 jurors who convicted a Chicago man of murder Aug. 18. The billionaire's presence drew massive amounts of media attention to what normally would have been a low-profile case.

Winfrey briefly discussed the experience with other jurors who sat in the audience of her show before she interviewed actors Gwyneth Paltrow and Jude Law.

Winfrey invited the jurors to stay after the show for a lunch prepared by her personal chef.



Winfrey

Cornwell funds police scholarships

Author Patricia Cornwell announced she is giving \$20,000 more to fund scholarships for law enforcement officials attending the University of Tennessee's National Forensics Academy.

Cornwell's 1994 book "The Body Farm" is based on the school's experimental station that studies bodies in vary-

ing stages of decay.

She established the scholarship fund in 2002 and made the announcement at the academy's alumni retraining seminar in Knoxville, UT officials said.

The scholarship helps police departments with limited budgets send officers to attend the academy's 10-week training program for crime scene investigators.

Simmons considers 'Queer Eye' makeover

How would the guys from "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy" make over the black and white makeup of Kiss? We may get to find out.

Gene Simmons, the tongue-wagging bassist of Kiss, is considering an appearance on the Bravo reality show. On his Web site, Simmons says that producers for the show have asked him join the Fab Five for an episode.

"They called me and asked me if I would do it. I'm a fan of the show. We may shoot on the 28th of September," Simmons says.

"Queer Eye for the Straight Guy" is in its second season. Stories and photos from wire services



Simmons

And now the day
The hour hand has spun
Before the night is done
I just have to hear
Those sweet words
Spoken like a melody

Norah Jones gets a little bit country and gets used to being a performer

BY JAKE COYLE

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Norah Jones has been on the road so long, she's considered putting a couch on the stage and calling her tour "The Couch Tour."

The sultry-voiced Texan singer kicked off the U.S. leg of her world tour Aug. 12 with the Handsome Band, fresh from playing through Europe in support of her new album, "Feels Like Home."

And the shy Jones, who was thrust into stardom with her runaway hit debut "Come Away With Me," is feeling more at ease.

"Performing live wasn't that great the first time around," Jones said. "But I think there's a learning curve to it, and now I feel a lot more comfortable."

On stage, the normally stationary pianist is even striding out from her perch behind the piano to sing.

"I used to think I looked like a marinette when I stand up," said Jones. "But now I'm standing up more and wearing skirts more."

When asked what led to this new performing ease, Jones concedes that much of it comes from simply getting accustomed to the bright lights of a sta-

dium tour. But her newfound comfort on the stage is also due to remembering that she's in control.

Jones, 25, says that while there are things that she has to do as such a popular performer, she finds the key is to "try to make it fun for myself." And she's doing just that.

In concert, Jones is featuring songs from her new album, which have a more country sound and lend more energy to her shows. Jones and her band also have been playing covers of The Band and Tom Waits.

Her new album, "Feels Like Home," sold more than 1 million copies in its first week of release in February. Jones' first CD, "Come Away With Me," has sold 8 million-plus copies and garnered her eight Grammys last year, including album of the year. Her tour is scheduled to run through Nov. 14.

Jones, the daughter of New York concert producer Sue Jones and Indian musician Ravi Shankar, started singing publicly in the Dallas area at age 16. She studied jazz piano for two years at the University of North Texas in Denton.

Horoscope

Venus blows kisses to Saturn as it passes. Personal growth will be tested, especially in regard to the way we behave in our closest relationships. There's a chance to check yourself — are you really over that thing you said you were over? A review of past lessons in love could reveal a pattern that is still being perpetuated.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (August 31). Even though you feel you know yourself well, you'll deepen your knowledge this year and enable yourself to make choices that lead to your immediate satisfaction.

Your career takes off this fall, and finances improve. Too. Your personal life gives you power in November. Let go of ties that require too much effort. Love signs are Aries and Taurus.

ARIES (March 21-April 19).

You're ready to get current or even futuristic about the way you do business. Abandon antiquated ideas and outdated methods for the modern, streamlined and efficient. Aquarius and Gemini are your technological allies.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You don't only know exactly how you feel, you'll also have the courage to act on a romantic impulse. Instead of trying to get all your needs met in one place, seek multiple sources of friendship and encouragement.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21).

You're driven to attract new business — financial goals are looming, and you're eager to meet them! This is done most effectively through the principle of attraction. An environment that is functional and aesthetic helps clients.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). This star gives you a sense of accomplishment as an individual who is part of the whole today. Work with others to attain your goals. Much happens in a small group setting, and you naturally assume the leadership role.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The secret to happiness is not a secret at all. You'll feel happy and complete

whenver you choose to feel that way. Relationships become more solid when you live by this principle. Tonight, you'll be in a precarious social situation.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).

You've known yourself all these years, but you still have much to learn about your own complex character. Financial speculations are right on the money — invest confidently. If you refuse to compromise, you can get your way.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You attract fans! Family members want to lend you more support but are waiting for your cue. You're so well thought of now that you may be patted on the back for something you didn't do. You and a newcomer have chemistry.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're feeling sassy and have the attitude that you just don't care what people think. This allows you to ask for things you don't even want and certainly things that you do. Negotiate your way into prosperity and fun.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Sometimes, the only mature way to handle serious matters is to laugh out loud. The stars support a big belly laugh this afternoon. When you see the humor in the situation, others will, too.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Seeing the same people and scenery day in and day out will wear on you. Luckily, it's not difficult to add dimension to your life. If you're using your creativity, your achievements will be satisfying on many levels.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Whether it's joy or sadness, you're felt fully, deeply, madly. Be on the lookout for energy vampires, and don't let them near. Emotions are too easily manipulated under these skies. It's also easy to help someone feel better.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You may feel a bit restless, striving for progress in all things. Relax. Balance is the key to moving forward. By just being, you are enough. Accomplishments happen naturally when you believe you are entitled to abundance.

Creators Syndicate

Joyce Jillion



Calvin and Hobbes



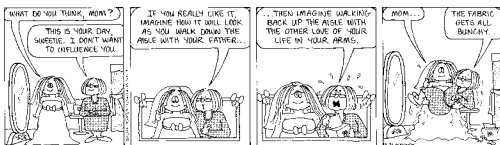
Jump Start



Zits



Cathy



Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



Red Rover



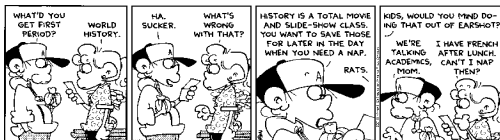
Better or Worse



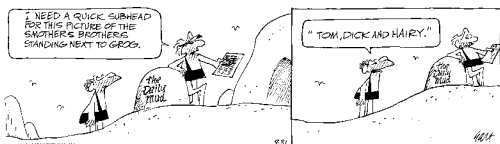
Peanuts



Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



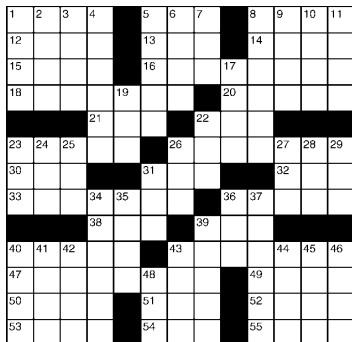
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- 1 Zinger
5 Wye follower
8 Post-Christmas event

Down

- 12 Toast topper
13 Work unit
14 New Haven collegians
15 "— It Romantic?"
16 Basic training site
18 Blackout criminals
20 Impressive setup
21 Meadow
22 Dander
23 "Psycho" setting
26 Forest bird
30 Early animal sanctuary
31 Enjoyment
32 Court
33 Hoffman film
36 Regions
38 Pismire
39 Watch chain
40 Likewise
43 Coach attendant
47 Sarsaparilla drink
49 Top-notch
50 Off base
51 Encountered
52 Notion
53 Beaufort scale category
- 54 Cunning
55 Mr. Gingrich
- 26 Coloration
27 Personal
28 Travail
29 — Alamos, Calif.
31 Suitable
34 Blab
35 Uppity sort
36 San Diego attraction
37 Get
39 Two score
40 Haul
41 "The Music Man" venue
42 Implement
43 Sense
44 Fashion
45 From square one
46 Felix Unger-esque
48 Type squares

Answer to Previous Puzzle



8-31

CRYPTOQUIP

T I S K A C T J S D Y M S I C
K C W U X G A I M U V T Y A S
X D W O A Y D W C P S D G R J C

OTICR "YLC VTVCW PLTAMC."
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I'M VERY GOOD AT GROWING WHEAT AND BARLEY. SO WOULD YOU SAY I HAVE A GRAIN THUMB?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: V equals P

Travel lifestyle not for everyone

Dear Abby: I usually think your advice is pretty good, but your answer to "Homebody in Norfolk, Va.," who didn't want to travel with her husband, was way off. If she doesn't like to travel, she shouldn't be forced to just because that's what her husband wants. She has every right to live her life the way she wishes, and not be coerced to do something she doesn't like just because she's married.

Travel is not pleasant to everyone. Flying is a big pain in the butt and can even be harmful to a person's health if he or she is susceptible to deep-vein thrombosis.

You should have recommended instead a session or two of counseling so both parties can get their feelings out in the presence of a neutral party. Maybe then the husband will be more accepting of his wife's preferences.

—M.M. in Kingston, N.Y.
Dear M.M.: Although I didn't intend to be, you are not the only reader who felt my reaction to

"Homebody's" problem was harsh. Read on:

Dear Abby: You are usually sensitive to problems and concerns, yet you assume that "Homebody" simply refuses to go. I sometimes become panicked just going on errands, out of town, etc. To go to faraway lands promotes whole new fears.

My advice would be for "Homebody" to explain to her husband why she doesn't want to go, and then reach a compromise. If he really wants to spend time with her, I'm sure he won't care where they go. Perhaps they could find a destination that both of them would be happy with.

Stay Staying Put in Texas
am all for compromise. I suspect compromise might be difficult for someone who hungers to visit the game parks in Africa, ride a gondola on the canals in Venice

Dear Abby



Grown sibling steals from parents

Dear Annie: I am one of five adult siblings. The four oldest of us are married, with families and good jobs. The youngest sibling, "Lon," still lives at home with our elderly parents. We jokingly refer to his basement bedroom as his hidey-hole.

Lon has no job, no job prospects and no desire to get a job. We've had plenty of discussions in which Lon has been strongly encouraged to get out of our parents' home, to not avail.

It has recently come to my attention that Lon is using my parents' credit cards to make online purchases. He does this in the presence of my teenage children, who are then instructed not to tell Grandma. The packages come in the mail, and my brother sneaks them off to his hidey-hole.

I have two problems with this.

Annie's Mailbox



First, my brother is blatantly stealing from my parents.

And second, my children are being asked to lie to me and to their grandma. I have approached Lon and told him that my children will no longer be allowed at the grandparents' house unless I am with them.

I let him know it was his responsibility to explain this to my parents.

He has yet to do so. My children used to visit my parents daily, but not anymore. Mom has started to question me about why her grandchildren aren't coming around.

To make matters worse, my father is literally on his death-bed.

My mother is taking care of him during his final days with the assistance of hospice nurses.

or walk on the Great Wall of China.

Since your problem is fears and panic, please read the next letter carefully:

Dear Abby: I, too, was a homebody. Now I am divorced. I went to very few restaurants, complained about traffic and crowds, attended no concerts or movies. After nine years of putting up with my phobia, my wife divorced me. I attempted to save our marriage by seeking help from my doctor. He prescribed medication that saved me from becoming a hermit.

Please urge "Homebody" to consult her doctor.

—Bob in Indiana
Dear Bob: Thank you for sharing your personal experience. I'm glad to know that you received effective help for your problem and are doing better.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 6940, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at: <http://www.uxpress.com/dearabby>

Universal Press Syndicate

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TILUQ
□ □ □ □ □

GLOIC
□ □ □ □ □

NEPTLY
□ □ □ □ □

DARAPE
□ □ □ □ □

Answer: "□ □ □ □ □"

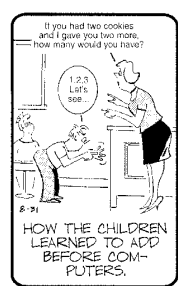
(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's

Jumbles: ENJOY AGENT BALLET WIZARD
Answer: What the teen said when his younger brother played his drums — "BEAT IT"

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argiron

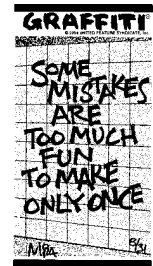


Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Family Circus



"I'll let you know when your hair needs combing, P.J."



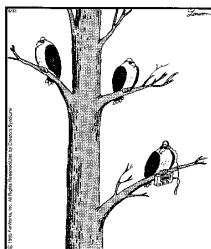
Demis the Menace



"I GIVE YOU A DOZEN ROSES, AND HE GETS THE SAME REACTION WITH A FISTFUL OF DANDELIONS... FROM OUR YARD?"

© Gary Larson

The Far Side



Birds of prey know they're cool.

Non Sequitur





Quick Trips

Time tested

History has not scarred Marksburg Castle

BY RUSTY BRYAN

Stars and Stripes

Of the numerous castles whose jagged profiles mark the mountainsides along the Rhine north of Wiesbaden and Mainz, there is only one that was never destroyed.

Marksburg Castle, towering above the village of Braubach on the east side of the river, has endured nearly 800 years of change and turmoil without seeing its ponderous stones burned, blasted or razed. Its link to its past is uninterrupted.

In other words, it's the real deal.

The reason Marksburg never suffered the fate of its neighbors is its location. It sits atop a steep, isolated hill on a bend in the river. In the past, the formidable terrain so discouraged enemies that the castle, begun in the 11th century but not finished until 1231, was never attacked during the countless wars that raged around it throughout the centuries.

Today, tourists attacking the Marksburg face either a tough 25-minute ascent via a footpath from the parking lot at the foot of the mountain, or 119 breath-sapping steps leading from a parking lot three-fourths of the way up the hill at the end of a one-lane road.

The climb is more than worth it. Fifty-minute tours take visitors through the ramparts and into the still-furnished living quarters of the old palace. While the tours are conducted in German, most of the guides speak English. In addition, English-speaking visitors are given a free brochure describing the sights on the tour, and English tours can be arranged for groups of 20 or more with advance notice.

The tour begins with, of course, another climb. This one is up the castle's Rider's Stairway, hewn from the rock of the mountain. The stairway leads into the castle's courtyard, where a 17th-century artillery battery, supplemented by a gun built in 1450, still targets the valley below.

From the courtyard, the tour winds along the ramparts and a medieval herb and vegetable garden bordering them to the entrance to the palace.

While the present shoring-up of the Marksburg's main keep progresses, the first stop is a bed chamber furnished with a canopied bed, spinning wheel and cradle. Next up are the main banquet hall, still ready



PHOTOS BY RUSTY BRYAN/Stars and Stripes

Even wearing a cocoon of scaffolding, Marksburg Castle's distinctive wedding-cake keep towers over the Rhine Valley town of Braubach and its "Obertor," left.



The rock-hewn Rider's Staircase leads into the center of the castle.

for revelers with its large table, huge fireplace and strangely prominent, at least to modern eyes, toilet cubicle. Then it is on to the castle chapel, decorated with religious frescoes.

From the chapel, the tour ascends a narrow passage inside the walls to the armory, which features mannequins clad in battle dress from Grecian times through the Renaissance. In the armory, visitors can try on a heavy medieval battle helmet.

From the steel battle pot, the tour turns its attention to peaceful pots and pans as it winds through the fully equipped kitchen — with a fireplace large enough for a whole ox and a stone cold-storage cabinet — to the wine cellar. The tour concludes in what were once the stables, where a large display of torture equipment fills the former stalls and provides a grim counterbalance to the romantic visions of medieval life provided by the rest of the



A rusted 17th-century gun points over the river below Marksburg Castle as it still on guard.

Marksburg.

For its old age, the Marksburg holds a lot of life. It houses the offices of the German Castles Association, and its banquet hall and kitchen are available for "Knight's Table" parties, with food cooked in authentic style and served by waiters in costume while minstrels and a band entertain.

E-mail Rusty Bryan at: bryanr@mail.estripes.osd.mil.



PETER JAEGER/Stars and Stripes

On the QT



Directions

Marksburg Castle is above the town of Braubach, on the east bank of the Rhine, about 30 miles north of the tourist center of Rudesheim. From Wiesbaden, drive west on A-66, following signs toward Eltville and Rudesheim. After passing through Rudesheim, take B-42 along the river until reaching Braubach, about two hours from Wiesbaden in flowing traffic.



Times

The castle is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily from Easter through Sept. 1. During the rest of the year, it is open 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. Closed Dec. 24-25.



Costs

Tickets are 4.50 euros for adults, 4 euros for students and 3.50 for children. Family tickets for two adults and two or more children are 12.50 euros. Groups of 20 or more receive a discount of 50 euro cents per ticket. Parking is 1.50 euros.



Food

The castle has a terrace snack bar serving wurst platters, pasta, desserts and ice cream. It offers tables with a superb view of the Rhine Valley. In the towns below are food establishments of all types.



Information

Find directions, photographs and more in English at www.marksburg.de/english/frame.htm. Phone: (+49) (0) 2627-206. Guided tours in English are available for groups of 20 or more with notice.

— RUSTY BRYAN

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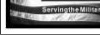
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Your Homeland Newspaper
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STRIPE CLASSIFIED

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PLACE A PRIVATE PARTY AD IN FOUR SIMPLE STEPS

1. Write an ad (be sure to include the item, price/or best offer (OBO) and phone number).
2. Select a 4, 7, or 30 day package.
3. Choose a category from the index running most days in Stars & Stripes Classified.
4. Decide which day you would like your ad to begin running, and submit with the appropriate payment on or before the deadline listed below.

MONDAY	DUE NOON THURSDAY	FRIDAY	DUE 4 PM TUESDAY
TUESDAY	DUE 4 PM THURSDAY	SATURDAY	DUE NOON WEDNESDAY
WEDNESDAY	DUE 4 PM FRIDAY	SUNDAY	DUE 4 PM WEDNESDAY
THURSDAY	DUE 4 PM MONDAY		

PRIVATE PARTY RATES

1. 4 lines for 4 days for \$20.00 (\$5.00 per additional line).
2. 4 lines for 7 days for \$30.00 (\$7.50 per additional line).
3. 4 lines for 30 days for \$55.00 (\$10.00 per additional line).

Private Party Rates apply only to individuals advertising personal merchandise or private property for sale, up to two major items such as a boat, motor vehicle or home. Commercial Rates apply to property and/or merchandise for rent and commercial operations. Employment Rates apply for Jobs Offered and Job Fairs. For Commercial or Public Place Information contact Stars & Stripes Classified. Payment is required in advance in order to publish ads. Acceptable forms of payment include Visa, MasterCard, Check or Money Order. Please do not send cash. If an ad is not received by the designated deadline, it will begin running the next available day. Please allow one extra day for all the federal holidays. Classified ad lines include approximately 25 characters (this includes spaces) per line.

Deadline to place, cancel, or make any change to an ad is four business days prior to first date of publication. It is the responsibility of the advertiser to contact Stars and Stripes Classified on the first day of publication to correct errors. If the ad has a typographical error, that does not affect the integral value of the ad, is misspelled words; wrong category (one-by-one); CAPS, bold, italicized incorrectly; it will be corrected, but no resubmit will be given. Incorrect phone numbers, wrong price, wrong dates, name or model listed incorrectly is treated as a misaligned for one additional day. Stars & Stripes reserves the right to edit and return any and all ads considered inappropriate for publishing. All classified advertisements are non-refundable.

Announcements 040

Automotive 140

Find 100% of shops
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www.APOFPOShipping.com

Automotive for Sale - Germany 142

Seeking reliable person to care
for person in my home. I am
looking for a person to care for
my mother. She is 85 years old
and has Alzheimer's disease.
06301-716567

Automotive 140

Automotive for Sale - Germany 142

Used cars from \$700 to \$3000.
Importation available.
0171-950602

Automotive for Sale - Germany 142

BMW 318i, auto, 4-cyl, new spec.
100k km, 42,000, 11,000, 11,000
01950-923841 11mrg

Automotive for Sale - Germany 142

Automotive for Sale - Germany 142

2002 PT Cruiser LTD Black
Leather int. heated seats,
chrome pkg, power roof, CD
radio, air bags, 5 SPD, 100k
km, 42,000, 11,000, 11,000
0178-621771

Automotive for Sale - Germany 142

BMW 520i touring, b/g, germ.
spec, all options, great condition.
40k km, 11,000, 11,000, 11,000
0171-119915

Automotive for Sale - Germany 142

Automotive for Sale - Germany 142

BMW 528i 100, 521,500 K, auto,
5500, 201000, pkg, NAV, new
tires, pkg, 11,000, 11,000, 11,000
0178-621771

Automotive for Sale - Germany 142

BMW 720i 1A, 100, 521,500 K, auto,
5500, 201000, pkg, NAV, new
tires, pkg, 11,000, 11,000, 11,000
0178-621771

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Announcements

NOTICE OF PRODUCT RECALL

Recall of SEVERIN electric kettle models due to possible fire hazard

SEVERIN is recalling electric kettles with model numbers WK 9658, showing specific codes QY, CQ and QY for the production months of February, March and April 2004.

Due to a faulty part (supplied by another manufacturer), the automatic switch-off function is not guaranteed to operate properly in case of overheating, leading to a possible danger from smoke and flames. There is a danger to life!

The rating label containing the relevant information can be found on the base of the appliance. The article no., a six-digit combination of letters and numbers (e.g. WK 3450), forms the first line on the rating label. The production code is located at the bottom right of the label.



Electric kettles with other article numbers are not affected and can be safely used.

Refrain from using the appliances, disconnect it from mains power and send it to your local Severin After Sales Service. No postage is required.

The appliance will be checked by our Customer Service, the faulty part will be replaced and the appliance will be returned to you free of any charges.

More information is available on the internet at www.severin.com. For further information, please contact us on the internet under export@severin.de

Announcements 040

Automotive 140

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Shipping to APO/FPO
www.APOFPOShipping.com

Automotive for Sale - Germany 142

BMW 318i, auto, 4-cyl, new spec.
100k km, 42,000, 11,000, 11,000
01950-923841 11mrg

Automotive for Sale - Germany 142

Automotive for Sale - Germany 142

Used cars from \$700 to \$3000.
Importation available.
0171-950602

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STRIPES CLASSIFIED

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Service Directory

Musical Instruments 740

BAND/DJ system complete
8 hrs. 3-5/25 class effects
rack, 3-5 way speakers 800
Wash. FLETC/MS65 \$2000
also RED 0171-6492126

PCS Sale 780

Custom Wood OFF/COMP -
Ammon, cost new \$2,000 selling \$
500 also, sleigh sofa-topper
\$300 also call 0621-7176738

Pets 820

+Purchase of listed pet is at
buyer's risk. German Dog Club
w/ recommendations checking
breeder's club membership be-
fore any purchase

Male, Coon kittens, born June
14 \$300, call 0175-2711567
Battersea, Wiltshire area

Hotweiler puppies, purebred,
\$1000, delivery possible, call
0175-6117220

White West Highland Terrier &
Cocker Spaniels, puppies, very
seasoned, shots, wormed, 450
per, call 0160-662793

Yorkshire Terrier puppies, w/
shots, \$850 per, 0651-7127

Apartment Unfurn 856

Apt Stuttgart-Feuerbach Historic
district, 120 elegant 2.5 bedrm
high colored floors, 7 miles from
center, access to public trans-
port, Euro 1300 + call, available
1-8 Sept, call Frau Kornholt,
Tel: (0711) 54999320; in US:
(412) 143-4777; D.N.N.
0132667-6775 (Mrs. Miller)

Apartment Furn 860

Gaiberg 15 min from N-Town
75 sqm apt, beautiful 2.5 bedrm
bath, turn with American solid
wood furn, tile and equippt bath
not wheelchair, Sat/Fri, car
park, each incl + ut, 400 Euro
incl + ut, no pets, tel
09367-1289 or 0173-440964

Lang, 1 yr apartment, dual
panoramic, Sat/Fri, both APN
and ASTRA incl, big terrace,
700sqm + uttl, call Sheila
09191-15993 Henna area

Homes/Apts for Rent-US 866

House for rent, one mile from
P.L. Ballou VA, 3-5 rms to 10
bdrms, 2-3 bath, 1-2 car garage,
1.6500/month, Ph: 0628-378728,
email: wabawill@yahoo.com

House Unfurnished 878

Nature lovers paradise "You
children will love it 15-20 min to
Kaiserlautern, Landschaft, Farm-
stead etc. Pigsty on Woods, 4
bedrm, den, 2 bath, 2
bath, midm, 2 hots, dogs,
Worms, etc, watergrd, 850
Euro. For sale or rent 150,000,
Euro.

Home Repair 906

Looking for help with
renovation/landscaping, familiar
with German material/proce-
dures, CA area 09162-96976

Tutoring 946

Looking for college algebra tutor
in Dallas area, slight exp,
evenings, call 0175-6067339

Sporting Goods 980

Kettler Atlanta treadmill, 220V,
foldable, digital display, auto
incline, please arrange for pick-
up, \$550, call 0618-666616

Travel 1000

"VACATION IN GARMISCH"
Hotel Fuschia Obersee, 10 km
from Garmisch-Hochschwar-
zberg PT, DRS, ocean, big hotel
dogs welcome, 08284-9120
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Jobs Offered 630

SOLO SEEKS SECRETARY

Law Offices David Court needs an office
manager. Must be a native English speaker
Mr. Court specializes in representing service members in
court martial. Will be in the law in Karlsruhe, 85,
68599 Frankfurt, Germany. Please call (609) 30 10 72
to arrange for an interview.

USO- ACCOUNTANT

The USO Regional Office located at Mainz-
Kastel Station, Germany, is accepting
applications for a full-time accounting position.
This position performs accounting full-charge
functions and provides accounting and technical
support to USO Field Operations in the Atlantic
Region. Minimum requirements: Associates
degree in Accounting or Finance; at least 2 yrs
experience with public or private accounting;
proficiency with spreadsheets & automated
accounting systems. Applicants must be I.D.
cardholder or I.D. card eligible. To be
considered for the position, submit a resume to:
USO European Region, Attn: Therese Segler,
Ludwig Wolker Strasse 10, Gebaude 404,
55252 Mainz-Kastel, by fax 06134-286567 or
by email to jobs@uso.org by Sept 7.
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Jobs Offered 630

Employment Opportunities

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Automotive

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\$32,495 2004 V70 AWD DEMO

\$33,995 2004 S60R AWD DEMO

\$30,995 2004 S40 T5 DEMO

Premium/Sport Pkg

Premium/Climate Pkg

Premium/Sport/Nav

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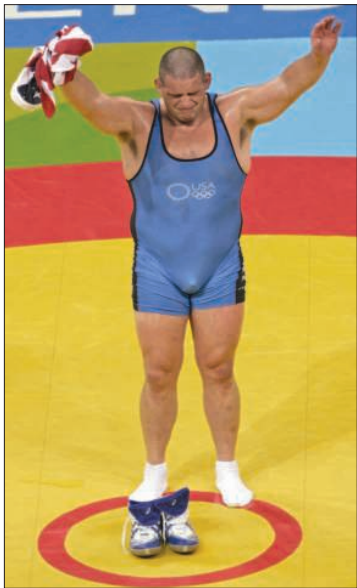
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U.S. Specs

2004 ATHENS OLYMPICS

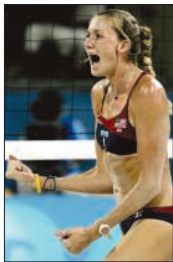
Golden moments



Rulon Gardner waves after taking off his shoes to symbolize his retirement after defeating Sajad Barzi, of Iran, during the Greco-Roman 120kg wrestling bronze medal bout. The American heavyweight ended a career that included a victory over the invincible Russian Alexander Karelin in the gold medal match at the 2000 Sydney Games.



Michael Phelps displays one of the six gold medals he won. Phelps didn't top the seven won by Mark Spitz, but the swimming phenom still was the talk of the Games during the first week.



The USA's Kerri Walsh teamed with Misty May to roll through the women's beach volleyball competition. They didn't lose a set en route to winning the gold medal at on of Athen's wildest venues.



Jaswon Gatlin reacts after winning the gold medal in the 100-meters. He was a triple medalist and helped the U.S. rule the track.



Gold medalist Carly Patterson watches the American flag rise during the medal ceremony for the individual all-around final. She is the first American to win the event since Mary Lou Retton in 1984.

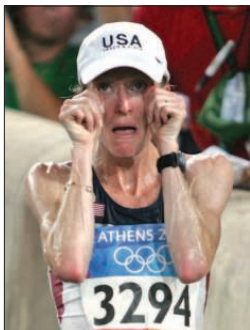


Crystl Bustos celebrates as she rounds the bases after hitting the first of her two homers in the gold medal game.



Members of the American men's eight boat, with coxswain Pete Cipollone at right, celebrate after they won the gold medal, the first in 40 years.

2004 ATHENS OLYMPICS



Deena Kastor of the United States celebrates her bronze medal in the marathon, the last lap of which was run around the Panatheniac Stadium, the marble stadium that hosted the first Olympic Games in 1896. "It's incredible," Kastor said. "I was in tears the whole last lap."

MIAMI HERALD/KRT



Mariel Zagunis jubilates after she took the gold medal in the women's individual sabre competition — the first for the U.S. fencing team since 1904 and first medal ever for the women.

AP



Mia Hamm, left, and Brazil's Tania fight for a header during the gold medal soccer game. Hamm and the other five stalwarts on the American team said goodbye to their sport with gold medals.

ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER/AP



Amanda Board, of the United States, reacts after swimming to a gold medal in the 200-meter breaststroke. Board also won two silver medals.

Andre Dirrell, right, from Flint, Mich., bows after defeating Cuba's Yordani Despaigne Herrera during the middleweight boxing quarterfinals. Dirrell won the bronze medal. Light heavyweight Andre Ward was the only American boxer to win gold.

AP photos



Gymnast Paul Hamm celebrates with trainer Don Rackey, right, after winning the gold medal in the men's all-around. The rest of the Olympics didn't go as well for Hamm, who sat glumly after his routine on the pommel horse during the men's gymnastics individual apparatus finals. Hamm placed sixth in the competition, and had to answer questions about the all-around judging.

AP photos



2004 ATHENS OLYMPICS

Greeks lower curtain on successful Games

BY EDDIE PELLIS

The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — If anyone deserved a party, it was the people of Athens.

The flame went out on the Olympics during a closing ceremony Sunday night that honored the birthplace of the Games with an ebullient display of Greek pride and symbolism, a relief-filled celebration of the ancient and the new.

Famed Greek singer George Dalaras serenaded the crowd. Dancers danced, arms folded, legs kicking high, during an enactment of a traditional Greek wedding. Fireworks exploded over the stadium packed full with 70,000 fans who waved twinkling strobes they were given to light up the show.

Hundreds of athletes from many of the 202 countries that participated mingled in the center of the stadium and paraded their flags — Canadian and Swiss, American and Brazilian — around the floor. They were ringed by a cadre of security guards, and a white security blimp hovered overhead, just two of the strong reminders of how much the world has changed since the Sydney Games four years ago.

Later, the huge white torch that burned brightly over the stadium for 17 days was lit, and symbolic remnants of the flame were passed to the people of Beijing, where the Games will be held in 2008.

China's capital city put on a short ceremony filled with a preview of what's to come. Chinese string instruments played and red-clad martial arts performers romped around the stage.

Elaborately clad women wearing head-dresses walked out on stilts. A giant, red lantern popped up and, while a young Chinese girl sang, a banner was unfurled that said "Welcome to Beijing."

China will have to put on quite a show to match Greece, a poor country that spent \$8.5 billion to bring the Games back to their home, and often wondered if the effort was worth it.

"The world discovered a new Greece," said Athens 2004 President Gianna Angelopoulos-Daskalaki, who made it all happen with her fierce determination to overcome construction delays and avoid international humiliation.



DALLAS MORNING NEWS/AP

Flagbearers from the Olympic nations enter the stadium during the closing ceremony on Sunday. Over 300 gold medals were awarded during the 19 days of the Olympics.

The three-week festival of sports was tumultuous, as expected, but not for the reasons most people anticipated.

Athens put the finishing touches on its Games with only days remaining — paint really was still drying in some places when the torch was lit. But the city put on a fantastic — and safe — show, much to the surprise of skeptics who fretted over the country's readiness and security issues almost from the day it was awarded the Games.

While Greece shone, the athletes, delegations and even the fans were not as well-behaved.

These Games were marred by doping scandals, booing in the stands and protests by the teams. The misbehavior extended right to the very end, when a man jumped out of the crowd and tackled Brazilian marathoner Vanderlei de Lima. He recovered, and finished third.

"I think the Olympic spirit prevailed, and I prevailed," de Lima said during a news conference, held in the bowels of the stadium while the ceremony rocked on above.

The complaints came in no fewer than six sports, most notably in gymnastics, where South Korea's protest of American

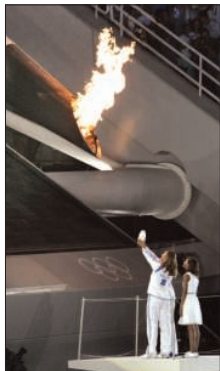


AP

U.S. rower Kent Smack carries flags from various nations during Sunday's ceremony.

Paul Hamm's all-around gold medal became one of a handful of unsavory stories that dominated the Games. Disgraced Greek sprint stars Kostas Kenteris and Katerina Thanou also played a role, and a record two dozen athletes were caught on doping cases.

On Sunday, though, it was time to celebrate the Olympic spirit and the Olympic



PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER/KRT

The Olympic flame is passed to a child carrying a lantern during the closing ceremonies of the Athens Games on Sunday.

hosts that held the first Games in 776 B.C. and resurrected the modern-day version in 1896.

Athens was only one of the sites. The Games also made a cameo appearance in Olympia to watch the shot put, and to Marathon to stand on the spot where the race got its name.

Mia Hamm was the U.S. flagbearer during this, the last of three medal-winning appearances for her at the Olympics.

In his closing remarks, International Olympic Committee President Jacques Rogge lauded Athens, a city that came close to having the Games taken away because of massive construction delays.

"You have won," Rogge said. "You have won by brilliantly meeting the tough challenge of holding the Games. These were unforgettable, dream Games."

Drama: Athens was perfect Olympic theater

DRAMA, FROM BACK PAGE

The electricity meant victories. The Americans dominated at the track, collecting an Athens-best 24 medals. Even better, none were caught using banned substances in the year of the burgeoning BALCO scandal.

The drug-free Americans weren't ugly, either. The U.S. athletes, after getting pre-Olympic instructions on proper decorum, behaved perfectly — as did their hosts. The Athens Games were a success by acclamation as pretty as the blue skies above the Acropolis each sunny morning.

"It was incredible to come in here, to be so safe, to feel confident and relaxed," said Phelps, who stayed around an extra week for the closing ceremony. "I can't say how great the city of Athens has been."

Great? Yes. Perfect? That de-

scribed the American softball team.

The softballers, winning a gold for their recently widowed coach, did everything right in Athens, taking nine straight games while outscoring their opponents 51-1. It was their third consecutive Olympic title.

The ancient city did suffer some modern Olympic woes — doping problems (a record high of 23 cases, with six medals stripped), a gymnastics scoring mistake that left gold medalist Paul Hamm twisting in the wind, and angry protests over the later-cancelled visit of U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell.

Few, however, could dispute International Olympic Committee President Jacques Rogge's contention that the Games were "splendid" and the security just "flawless."

That was vital in the first Sum-

mer Games since Sept. 11, 2001, with athletes competing under 202 flags. The sight of a blimp waiting across the sky once signaled a sponsor's advertisement; now, it was part of a \$1.5 billion security plan.

But the attention turned quickly to the athletes after the opening ceremony.

There were disappointments: The men's basketball team, undefeated since NBA players joined the mix in 1992, went home with a bronze after losing three games in Athens with its youngest roster ever.

And track star Jones, the winner of five medals in Sydney, won nothing in Athens — losses that only intensified the speculation fuelled by allegations she used steroids in Australia. A botched handoff in the 400-meter relay led to a disqualification for the American team, shortly after she failed to medal in the long jump.

Jones wept, too.

But the downers were overshadowed by the only-in-Athens moments, where the athletes of the 21st century enjoyed a bit of time travel.

In Ancient Olympia, where the Games were born 28 centuries ago, American Adam Nelson won a silver in the shot put. Following the route first run by Pheidippides in 490 B.C., U.S. marathon runner Deena Kastor captured the bronze, running her last lap around the marble Panathinaiko Stadium that hosted the 1896 Games.

The Games ended in the new Olympic Stadium, the 72,000-seat facility designed by Spanish architect Santiago Calatrava, with a closing ceremony attended by thousands of Olympic athletes from around the world. The journey to Beijing is next for many of them.



AP

America's "Dream Team" wasn't its much-hyped group of NBA stars, but its softball team, which dominated Olympic competition on the way to a gold medal.

"It's amazing and it never gets old," said soccer player Kristine Lilly, herself a three-time Olympian. "It's an experience I'll cherish forever."

2004 ATHENS OLYMPICS

Beijing buildup under way

China out to make 2008 Games most organized, competitive ever

BY NIKO PRICE

The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — Even before the athletes claimed all the gold in the Athens Games, the buildup to the 2008 Beijing Olympics was in full swing.

They could be the most elaborate, best organized and most competitive Games ever. They could also be the toughest yet for the United States.

"It's almost like a buildup to a war," said Bob Condron, spokesman for the U.S. Olympic Committee.

The countdown to China began Sunday, when Beijing's mayor took possession of the Olympic flag during an eight-minute pageant at the Athens closing ceremony tying ancient Olympia to the Great Wall of China. Directing was Zhang Yimou, famous for his visually lush movies including "Raise the Red Lantern" and the Oscar-nominated "Hero."

China wants to show that it is going all out, and this is a country that knows how to go all out. After all, it built the Great Wall. It recently remodeled its largest cities, sacrificing entire neighborhoods for six-lane avenues and skyscrapers. In 1958, it implemented a misguided industrialization plan with such fervor that 40 million people starved to death.

Now, after a two-decade shift from closed socialist fiefdom toward global economic powerhouse, China plans to use the Olympics to demonstrate that the world's most populous nation is a surging force to be reckoned with — and not only in sports.

"The Games will be a kind of vehicle to showcase China opening up," said Wang Wei, secretary-general of the organizing committee. "China is the biggest developing country, the fastest-growing economy, and the Olympics enjoy the greatest popular support in China."

Condron put it more simply: "This is the biggest coming-out party in history."

Organizers are trying to calm concerns over their nation's human rights record which drew protests in Athens — and pledging not to stifle the 20,000 journalists expected to journey to Beijing.

To be a success, China believes, everything will have to be perfect.

In sharp contrast to Greece, which finished Olympic venues only days before the Games began, China drew up plans to complete everything two years early. A massive propaganda machine is spreading awareness of



Chinese construction workers carry a water hose past the Olympic rings on the streets of Beijing, China, on June 7. Beijing will host the 2008 Olympic Games. Unlike Athens, which was plagued by delays and finished some of its Olympic venues days before the start of the Games, Beijing is planning on finishing two years early. "If you need a million men to finish a stadium, you make a phone call and they're there overnight," said Olympic documentary filmmaker Bud Greenspan, who has worked closely with China's Olympic organizers.



Among China's goals is domination of international sports and the Olympic medal count. Liu Xiang's gold medal in the men's 110-meter hurdles Friday is evidence that they're making progress toward that goal.

sports and Olympic traditions among China's 1.3 billion people. The government is falling over itself to prepare infrastructure — even changing laws to please IOC officials.

"If you need a million men to finish a stadium, you make a phone call and they're there over-

night," said Bud Greenspan, the Olympic documentary filmmaker, who has worked closely with Chinese organizers.

The Chinese people are no less passionate about the Games than their government. When the Olympic torch came through China in June on its way to

Greece, Wang said, more than 1 million people turned out to see it pass.

"The celebration, the atmosphere was great," he said. "Just imagine when the Beijing opening ceremony takes place. It's going to be fantastic!"

The government recently revised its construction plans, delaying them to finish one year before the Games. The reason? The International Olympic Committee, accustomed to pressuring host nations to speed up their efforts, suggested China slow down to avert a cash-flow problem.

To the dismay of other nations, the IOC cannot offer such guidance to China's sports machine. It is roaring ahead with a single goal: to destroy all competition in 2008. The United States, the medals winner in Athens, is enemy No. 1.

"The Chinese buildup is the most massive in sports history," Condron said. "They may be so good that they could put the medals race out of sight."

China participated in 14 of 28 sports in Sydney. In Athens, it competed in 25. Its goal for 2008 is to enter athletes in every sport — athletes who can win.

"They're going to swamp every-

Summer Olympics host cities

1896	Athens
1900	Paris
1904	St. Louis
1906	Athens
1908	London
1912	Stockholm
1920	Antwerp
1924	Paris
1928	Amsterdam
1932	Los Angeles
1936	Berlin
1948	London
1952	Helsinki
1956	Melbourne
1960	Rome
1964	Tokyo
1968	Mexico City
1972	Munich
1976	Montreal
1980	Moscow
1984	Los Angeles
1988	Seoul
1992	Barcelona
1996	Atlanta
2000	Sydney
2004	Athens
2008	Beijing

body," Greenspan said with a chuckle.

He Huixian, a vice chairman of the Chinese Olympic Committee, said his nation has stepped up training and means people in sports like swimming and track and field — competitors in which many medals are awarded — but China has traditionally fielded weak teams.

Those efforts have already begun to pay off. Look no further than China's two gold medals in track and field Friday.

Other sports powers — the United States, Russia, Germany and Australia — also are targeting resources to boost athlete training, but China's push is more efficient because the government funds and exerts strong control over sports.

Children are tested at a young age to determine if their bodies will develop appropriately for a certain sport, then are placed into government-funded sports schools that have demanding training schedules but offer major perks for the children's families.

The head of the Russian Olympic delegation observed that the Chinese system is really the old Soviet system, and "they just took it from us."

China's delegation to Athens even sacrificed some older athletes in favor of less qualified younger ones, so they could gain Olympic experience that will help them triumph in 2008.

"If the home team doesn't perform well, you don't have a good atmosphere in the Games," Wang said.

Asked whether that meant China would steamroll over the competition, Wang gave a knowing smile and a humble response. "No need to be frightened," he said.

Niko Price is correspondent-at-large for The Associated Press.

"The Chinese buildup is the most massive in sports history. They may be so good that they could put the medals race out of sight."

Bob Condron

U.S. Olympic Committee spokesman

2004 ATHENS OLYMPICS

U.S. triumphs tempered by some disappointments

BY JAIME ARON

The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — By all accounts, the United States had a great Olympics.

Americans won 103 medals, more than in Sydney or Atlanta. Michael Phelps put on a show for the ages, capped by a wonderful lesson in sportsmanship. Paul Hamm offered a tremendous reminder about never giving up.

The amazing thing is, it could have been better.

Americans won just 35 gold medals, the fewest since Montreal, 28 years ago. Phelps fell short of the goal he set and \$1 million bonus he craved. And Hamm is still defending the legitimacy of his triumph.

So while Athens will go down as one of the best Summer Games for the red, white and blue, don't put it at the top of the list.

These great Olympic games could have been superb. But something always got in the way.

Look at Phelps.

He won eight medals, something no American and only one other Olympian had done. The let-down was that two were bronze. Had they been gold, he would've met his dream of breaking the record of seven golds won by Mark Spitz in 1972 — and collected a \$1 million bonus.

It can't say enough about what an honor it was to even have the opportunity to attempt that," Phelps said Sunday.

Phelps could have closed his games by swimming the butterfly leg of the 400-meter relay. Instead, he gave his spot to teammate and top rival Ian Crocker, not because he was tired but so they could both get a medal. They did. Gold.

Schoolteachers and coaches can get a lot of mileage out of that one. They also can tell kids about Hamm, who went from a vault landing that sent him tumbling onto the judges' table — and into 12th place — to winning the all-around gold with two near-perfect performances.

He was hardly able to savor the comeback, though, because of a scoring squabble that has outlasted the Olympic flame. The cauldron was extinguished Sunday night, but the Court of Arbitration for Sport headed back to Lausanne, Switzerland, without having ruled on South Korea's request to have the top three reshuffled with its gymnast on top.

The list of U.S. champions includes the expected, like Phelps and the softball and women's basketball squads; the hoped for, like Hamm and fellow gymnast Carly Patterson; and pleasant surprises, like Mariel Zagunis winning the first American gold in fencing since 1904.

More notable are the names that are missing — most prominently the men's basketball team that had been unbeaten at the Olympics since adding NBA players in 1992. The squad formerly known as the Dream Team got bronze.

U.S. divers would have loved one of those. They were shut out for the first time in 92 years.

American boxers had their worst Olympics in 56 years, winning just two medals. At first one was gold, though, the last by the squad since 1996.

In track, medal sweeps in the men's 200 and 400 meters were great. Silver in the men's 400 relay and a disqualification in the women's race weren't. The men had won seven of the last nine times they entered. The women had won four of the last five.

The male track team ended up with its most medals since 1992.

The women had their fewest since '76, hindered by having lost some of their best sprinters home in the wake of a steroid scandal.

There also was turnover within the team. Justin Gatlin, Allyson Felix and Lauryn Williams were among a new wave of Olympians who sparkled, while established stars like Gail Devers, Allen Johnson and Stacy Dragila failed to even make any finals.

Rulon Gardner, the best story in Sydney, wasn't able to defend his wrestling gold medal. He wasn't too upset, though. The bronze he won was just as precious because of what he'd been through since 2000: a near-fatal snowmobile wreck that cost him a toe, a motorcycle crash and a dislocated wrist playing basketball. "There are the ones that got away, like shot putter Adam Nelson tying for first but getting silver on the tiebreaker because he fouled on all of his other throws."

And how about the 50-meter, three-position rifle event? Matt Emmons took a commanding lead into his final blast, then shot the



U.S. swimmer Michael Phelps tied an Olympic record with eight medals, and capped off his Games with a lesson in sportsmanship by giving up his spot in the final relay to teammate/rival Ian Crocker.

wrong target. The goof sunk him to eighth.

As with any Games, this was the last hurrah for many champions. Swimmer Jenny Thompson, who won two silvers to bump her American-best career medal total to 12, isn't likely to be back for a fifth games.

Dawn Staley is calling it quits after leading the women's basketball team to three straight golds. And the five stalwarts on the women's soccer team — Ma Hamm, Julie Foudy, Brandi Chastain, Joy Fawcett and Kristine Lilly — are also going out in golden style.

"It's not about the medal," Hamm said, "it's about the dream."

Stars and flops of Athens

ATHENS, Greece — The stars and flops of the Olympics:

Stars

■ Michael Phelps won eight medals, tying the record for most at one Olympics with six golds and two bronzes.

■ Hicham El Guerrouj of Morocco became the first man in 80 years to sweep the Olympic mid-distance races, winning the 5,000 and outstanding rival Bernard Lagat of Kenya in the 1,500.

■ U.S. gymnast Paul Hamm won the all-around, then endured a controversy involving a South Korean whose routine was incorrectly scored by judges. Hamm added high bar and team silvers.

■ Carly Patterson became the first American woman to win the gymnastics all-around since Mary Lou Retton in 1984. She also got silvers in the team competition and on the beam.

■ The U.S. softball team — led by Cristy Bustos, Jennie Finch, Cat Osterman and Lisa Fernandez — was dominant on its gold-medal march, outscoring opponents 51-1.

■ The U.S. women's basketball team — a star-studded line that included Dawn Staley, Lisa Leslie and Sheryl Swoopes — beat Australia 74-63 for gold.

■ Andre Ward won the light heavyweight gold, one of only two U.S. boxing medals.

■ The U.S. men's elite eight crew set a world record in the semifinals, then ended a 40-year drought in the tough rowing gold medals.

■ Mariel Zagunis of the United States won gold in saber — the first for the U.S. fencing team since 1904 and first medal ever for the women.

■ Iraq's soccer team made an unexpected run to the bronze-medal game, losing 1-0 to Italy.

■ U.S. sprinter Justin Gatlin held off the field to win the 100 meters in 10.1 seconds to claim the title of the world's fastest man.

■ Jeremy Wariner won the 400-meter run, leading a U.S. sweep with Otis Harris and Derrick Brew.

■ Wambach's 10-yard header lifted the United States to a 2-1 win over Brazil. It was her first gold in the last game for World Cup champion veterans Ma Hamm, Julie Foudy and Joy Fawcett.

■ Kelly Holmes of Britain surged to win the 1,500 meters gold, clinching a rare middle-distance Olympic double after winning the 800.

■ Yelena Isinbayeva of Russia set a world record in the pole vault for the fourth time this year, clearing 16-1 1/2 to win gold in a duel with teammate Svetlana Feofanova.

■ U.S. beach volleyball stars Misty May and Kerri Walsh won gold without losing a set.

■ Israeli windsurfer Gal Fridman won sailing's Mistral class, his nation's first Olympic gold medal.

Flops

■ Marion Jones left Athens without a medal after a botched hand-off in the 400-meter relay and a mediocre fifth-place long jump. She won five medals four years ago in Sydney.

■ The U.S. men's basketball team lost its opening game to Puerto Rico by 19 points and added two more losses en route to a bronze medal.

■ Greek sprinters Kostas Kentaris and Katerina Thanou were discredited by allegations they tried to avoid a doping test, then hours later were involved in a suspicious motorcycle wreck.

■ World champion Perdita Felicien of Canada was taken on the track after slamming into a hurdle and knocking Russian Irina Shevchenko out of the 100-meter hurdles.

■ After winning gold in the 50-meter prone event, U.S. shooter Matt Emmons blew a great chance for another gold when he fired at the wrong target in three-position rifle.

■ Russian gymnastics diva Svetlana Khorkina fell off the uneven bars, leaving her without an Olympic gold in her specialty event.

■ American Allie Johnson, a four-time world champion and 1996 Olympic gold medalist, crashed in the second round of the 110 hurdles and failed to advance.

■ At least six medals — three gold — were revoked because of doping.

■ The Athens Olympics were hit by numerous scoring and judging disputes, affecting gymnastics, equestrian, rowing and fencing.

— Tim Korte



Carly Patterson became the first American woman since Mary Lou Retton in 1984 to win the all-around title. She also won two silvers.

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Curacao tops Calif. for Little League title

By DAN LEWERENZ
The Associated Press

SOUTH WILLIAMSPOUT, Pa. — Carlos Pineda looked shaky when he started with three consecutive balls and then hit California's leadoff batter. But he got a lot better in a hurry.

Pineda struck out 11, and Jurickson Profar hit a two-run homer as Pabao Little League of Willemstad, Curacao, took an early lead on July 4 in a 5-2 victory over Concho Valley of Thousand Oaks, Calif., in the Little League World Series championship on Sunday night.

Curacao coach Michelangelo Celestina said the early advantage was "very important, because it was the first time we were in a final game of the Little League World Series."

Teams from Curacao reached the international final game the previous three years, but lost each time to a team from Japan. California scored both of its runs in the top of the sixth, and had runners on first and third with two outs. James Brady grounded to first baseman Christopher Garcia, who won a race to the bag for the final out.

It was the first Little League title for the tiny island in the Netherlands Antilles, and the first for any team from the Caribbean. The victory set off wild celebrations in Willemstad. Fireworks exploded after the last out as islanders watched on big-screen televisions. Caravans of cars snaked through the streets honking horns on the Caribbean island, while some revelers took to the streets on foot, dancing and partying.

Curacao (6-0) never trailed, going up 1-0 in the bottom of the

first on Schoop's RBI single. Facing a 1-1 count, Profar homered to left field — his first home run of the series — to make it 3-0.

"I did all the things good. I wanted to do — hitting, defense," Profar said through an interpreter.

After that, Pineda (2-0) kept his team out of trouble.

"He was throwing very hard," Celestina said. "I think the speed that he has is unbeatable."

It was almost a complete collapse for a California team that many expected to dominate. Concho Valley committed just two errors in five games, but had three errors by the end of the third inning of the title game. On Saturday night, California lost out a Texas team that averaged more than 10 runs a game.

California's coaches refused to come to the postgame news conference.

Curacao broke the game open in the third on a strange RBI double by Quincy van Blaricum. Coby Thomson said to make the play in right field, but the ball bounced in front of him and over his body.

Charlton Maris scored easily, while Willie Rifaella and van Blaricum continued around the bases.

The runners appeared to be jammed when Rifaella held up at third and van Blaricum was caught halfway between second and third. But when Rifaella went home, the throw to the plate was off the mark, allowing Rifaella to score, making it 5-0.

In the consolation game, Lamar National Little League of Richmond, Texas, beat Linda Vista Little League of Guadalupe, Mexico, 5-0. Randall Grichuk's second hit of the game for Texas tied the record for hits in a series with 12.

Pujols collects 100th RBI, leads Cardinals to sweep

The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Albert Pujols turned down a day off and then joined some elite company.

Pujols hit his 40th home run and reached 100 RBIs for the fourth consecutive season, and the St. Louis Cardinals completed a three-game sweep of the Pirates with a 4-0 victory Sunday.

Pujols, who also hit his first triple of the season, became the fourth player to start his major league career with four straight seasons with at least 100 RBIs. He joined Hall of Famers Al Simmons, Joe DiMaggio and Ted Williams as the only players to accomplish the feat.

"It's awesome," Pujols said. "The best to get 100 at this level, but I'm here to do the best I can to win. I don't care who they try to compare me to. I just want to be myself and try to get better every day. It's about winning. That's why I'm here. I want to be a winner and hopefully we'll get that opportunity this year."

Pujols was refreshed after being given Saturday off. It was just the sixth game he's missed.

"I felt like yesterday was a good time to do it," he said. "My body was telling me I was so tired."

Cardinals manager Tony La Russa said he considered resting Pujols on Sunday, too.

"I told him no because I felt strong enough to go out and play," Pujols said. "We were facing a tough lefty and I needed to go out there and try to help us to win."

Jason Marquis (13-4) held the Pirates to four hits in 7 1/3 shutout innings to win his 10th straight decision. He hasn't lost since the Pirates beat him 11-8 on May 26. He walked four and hit a batter as the Cardinals won their seventh straight game against the Pirates.

"I was more than pleased," La Russa said. "It was a tough matchup against [Oliver] Perez, a hot day, the end of a road trip. It was an outstanding performance."

Marquis said the heat and humidity didn't bother him.

"I felt great," he said. "I'm feeling real good physically and my mechanics have been good. Things have been going pretty well and my team has a lot to do so that we've been playing real good baseball. I'm just glad to be part of it."

Ray King got one out in the eighth, and Julian Tavarez got four outs for his fourth save in St. Louis' 10th shutout.

Perez (9-7) had won three consecutive decisions and six of eight, but gave up three runs on five hits in six innings.



St. Louis Cardinals' Albert Pujols, right, is congratulated by teammate Scott Rolen after his home run in the eighth inning against the Pirates on Sunday.

"He had a couple of mistake pitches, but he certainly pitched well enough to win a game," manager Lloyd McClendon said.

The Pirates have lost nine of their last 12 — with seven of the losses to St. Louis. They were 1-7 in consecutive weekend series against the Cardinals.

"We have a long way to go to get to their level," Pirates outfielder Rob Mackowiak said.

Pujols' triple capped a two-run third inning against Perez that gave St. Louis a 2-0 lead. With one out, Roger Cedeno walked and scored when Pujols' drive rolled to the notch in left-center field, the deepest part of PNC Park. Pujols, who reached third standing, scored when Scott Rolen blooped a single just beyond shortstop Jack Wilson's reach.

"He's going about the right way," La Russa said. "He just tries to win the game and the numbers just happen."

The Cardinals added a run in the sixth. Rolen led off a walk and scored two runs after Mike Matheny's sinking liner fell for a double, then rolled away from left fielder Jason Bay.

Pujols hit Brian Meadows' first pitch of the eighth over the center field fence.

The Cardinals are 18-6 on the road since the All-Star break.

"There's a terrific attitude on this team," La Russa said. "The guys really push each other. This club has played at a really high level for a long time and that's hard to do. You have to dig deep and they do, every day."

Federer wins first match in Open

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Australian Open and Wimbledon champion Roger Federer began his quest for a third Grand Slam title this season by defeating former French Open champion Albert Costa 7-5, 6-2, 6-4 Monday in the first round of the U.S. Open.

Playing on an oppressively humid afternoon at the National Tennis Center, Federer came into the Open on a mission. He has never progressed beyond the round of 16 in four previous appearances in the season's final Grand Slam.

But now he is favored No. 1, the pre-tournament favorite, and he played an efficient first-round match against Costa, who is more at home on clay than the hard courts of the Open.

Federer took 2 hours, 4 minutes to beat Costa, who had split four previous matches with the top seed.

"I lost the last two times I

played him, once on clay, once on hard," Federer said. "He knows how to beat me."

Not on Monday. Blasting serves as fast as 120 mph, Federer delivered 11 aces to one for Costa and won easily.

Earlier, third-seeded Carlos Moya got an early scare from wild-card entry Brian Baker, dropping the first set before recovering to defeat the 19-year-old 6-7 (8-6), 6-4, 6-4, 6-2.

Equipped with the highest Grand Slam ranking of his career, Moya came into the Open off a strong season. He reached the quarterfinals at Cincinnati and at the Olympics, losing to the eventual champion both times. So Baker, making just his second appearance in this event, seemed to be an easy first-round draw.

But the teenager got an early lead in the opening set, then won the tiebreak, even after losing a lead.

After that, however, Moya es-

tablished control. He ripped 24 aces and 66 winners in the match that stretched 3 hours, 7 minutes.

Second-seeded Amelie Mauresmo defeated American Marissa Irvin 6-4, 6-2 in the opening match of the tournament.

Mauresmo waited out a 20-minute rain delay when she started and then went down Irvin methodically. She hit 18 winners and had seven aces, six in the second set.

A semifinalist or better in eight of 12 tour events this year, including Wimbledon, Mauresmo overcame four double faults and won 77 percent of her first-serve points. She converted all four of her break-point opportunities and finished the match in 1 hour, 13 minutes.

In other early matches, former Wimbledon champion Conchita Martinez lost to No. 31 seed Maria Vento-Kabchi 6-0, 6-2, 6-3, and Ai Sugiyama, seeded No. 12, took advantage of 18 unforced errors and defeated Teryn Ashley 7-5, 6-2.

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Barry Bonds follows through on a fifth-inning home run Sunday night against the Atlanta Braves. It was Bonds' second homer of the game and 696th of his career. He finished 4-for-5 with six RBIs as the Giants beat Atlanta 9-5, tying San Diego and Chicago for the wild-card lead.

Bombs away, Barry!

Bonds reaches 696 with two mammoth home runs; Giants beat Braves to gain share of wild-card lead

The Associated Press

ATLANTA — Barry Bonds is counting home runs, not the distance they travel.

"Who cares where it goes," he said. "As long as they go over the yellow line."

Bonds hit two mammoth two-run homers — giving him 696 in his career — and went 4-for-5 with six RBIs Sunday night, leading the San Francisco Giants to a 9-5 victory over the Atlanta Braves.

The home runs that flew an estimated 920 feet were the second and third longest in Turner Field history. Bonds added a two-run single in the sixth inning to help end Atlanta's season-best, six-game winning streak.

Bonds had a chance for his first five-hit game in the eighth, but rookie right-hander Roman Colon struck him out with a sinker.

"I was tired," Bonds, smiling, said during a 10-minute session with reporters. "I saw eight baseballs."

He was not surprised that the Braves ignored a common trend and pitched to him.

"They're going to win their division so there's no need to walk me," said Bonds, who has drawn 183 walks, 93 of them intentional.

"I don't believe it was they're trying to grove it, but they were pitching to him," San Francisco manager Felipe Alou said.

As Bonds trotted around the bases after ripping his first homer, a belt-high fastball from Russ Ortiz (13-7) flew 467 feet into the right field stands in the third inning, the partition Atlanta fans stood and cheered.

"They're trotting out to left field after giving the Giants a 2-0 lead,

NL Roundup

fans seated there gave him another standing ovation.

The blast, the second longest ever at the stadium that opened in 1997, scored J.T. Snow, who had singled. The homer was bested only by Sammy Sosa's 471-foot shot on Sept. 1, 2001.

Bonds hit his 38th in his next at-bat in the fifth, also after a single by Snow, who had three of San Francisco's 14 hits.

Bonds drilled an 88 mph fastball from Ortiz into the same area. The one went 462 feet, gave the Giants a 5-2 lead, and introduced another standing ovation.

"We wanted to pitch to him in those situations. But, certainly we wanted to make better pitches," Atlanta manager Bobby Cox said.

It was the fourth multihomer game of the season for Bonds and the 68th of his career, breaking a tie with Mark McGwire and placing him second only to Babe Ruth's 72. Bonds has four career three-homer games.

The Braves lead the NL East by 8½ games over Florida.

The Giants trail Los Angeles by five games in the NL West but are one percentage point behind Chicago and San Diego in the wild card race.

Astros, 10, Cubs 3: Jeff Bagwell capped a big weekend with three hits and Lance Berkman homered as Houston climbed back into the NL wild-card race by taking three of four at Chicago. The Astros, who have won 11 of 14, trail wild-card leaders Chicago, San Diego and San Francisco

by four games heading into the last month of the season.

Carlos Hernandez (1-1) earned his first major league victory since Sept. 7, 2002. Bagwell was 10-for-18 with seven RBIs in the series.

Mariners 8, Rockies 4: J.J. Burnett struck out a pitcher on a team-record 14 in eight innings and Miguel Cabrera and Mike Lowell homered to help host Florida complete a three-game sweep and move within four games of the wild-card lead.

Shawn Estes (13-6) allowed eight runs in five innings for the Rockies, who have lost seven straight and 12 of 14.

Phillies 10, Brewers 0: Cory Lidle (8-12) homered and threw a four-hitter for his second shutout of the season as the host Phillies extended Milwaukee's losing streak to 11.

Marlon Byrd hit a grand slam for Philadelphia, which has just six victories in its last 16 games, all against the Brewers.

Dodgers 10, Mets 2: Robin Ventura hit his 17th grand slam, tying Jimmie Foxx and Ted Williams for four places on the career list. Kazuhisa Ishii (13-6) beat Kris Benson (10-11) as visiting Los Angeles maintained a five-game lead in the NL West.

Padres 11, Expos 3: David Wells (9-7) won his seventh consecutive road decision and helped himself with an RBI single. Ryan Klesko and Khalil Greene each hit two-run homers for visiting San Diego.

Reds 6, Diamondbacks 2: Edgar Gonzalez held Cincinnati hitless through six innings, only to allow a home run in the seventh inning that triggered a rally that carried the Reds past visiting Arizona.

Rampaging Red Sox have Yankees in their sights

The Associated Press

BOSTON — The Boston Red Sox are brimming with confidence and gaining ground on the New York Yankees in the AL East.

"I think we can beat any team right now," outfielder Johnny Damon said after the Red Sox beat Detroit 6-1 on Sunday for their sixth straight victory. "Our team is rising up."

It sure is — and fast. The Red Sox, a season-high 10½ games behind the first-place Yankees just two weeks ago, have cut the deficit to 4½ games, the closest they've been in first since June 23. New York lost 6-4 at Toronto.

"We've all known the whole year that we can do this," Mark Bellhorn said. "You want to get hot in the end."

Tim Wakefield (11-7) to get three hits in eight innings to help Boston win its 11th in 12 games.

New York's Alex Rodriguez, who went 4-for-4 with a homer and a walk in the Yankees' loss, still isn't worried about Boston.

AL Roundup

"They are playing extremely well, but we're in the driver's seat," Rodriguez said. "This game is about runs and they are in the best run of the year."

The Red Sox ended a stretch of 26 games — 23 against teams below .500 at the time of the game — in which they won 20. Next up are consecutive three-game home series against Anaheim and Texas, their closest pursuers in the AL wild-card race.

"On Tuesday night, you get a chance to set the tempo for the rest of the series," said Curt Schilling, who starts the opener against the Angels.

Wakefield gave up Nook Logan's double in the third, Craig Monroe's 10th homer in the fifth and Logan's single in the eighth.

The Red Sox scored four runs in the fifth off Wilfredo Ledezma (3-2) and two in the seventh on

Bellhorn's 14th homer against Craig Dingham.

The Red Sox outscored the Tigers 20-6 and outhit them 42-22.

"Coming here or anywhere else, when you score that many runs in four games, you're going to lose," Detroit manager Alan Trammell said.

Blue Jays 6, Yankees 4: Carlos Delgado homered in a five-run seventh and the Blue Jays ended a five-game losing skid after a power outage delayed the start for about an hour.

Miguel Batista (10-10) allowed two runs and seven hits in seven innings to win for the first time since July 23, a span of seven starts. Jason Frasor gave up a solo homer to pinch-hitter Jorge Posada in the ninth before finishing for his 17th save.

With approximately 11,000 fans in the stands an hour before the game, SkyDome went black for 90 minutes before the emergency lights came on. A spokesman for Hydro One, an Ontario power company, said a raccoon

might have caused an insulator to blow at a nearby power station.

Mike Mussina (9-8) remained winless in four starts since coming back from an elbow injury that sidelined him for nearly six weeks. He gave up five runs and five hits in 6½ innings.

Athletics 9, Devil Rays 6: Billy McMillon hit a three-run homer in the bottom of the ninth and the A's completed a three-game sweep of the Devil Rays to finish 7-0 on a homestand for the first time in 12 years.

Mark Mulder was in position to become the majors' first 18-game winner until Octavio Dotel (4-1) gave up consecutive homers to Aubrey Huff and Jose Cruz with two outs in the ninth, tying 8-6.

Angels 4, Twins 2: Adam Kennedy hit a two-run homer off Juan Rincon (10-6) in the bottom of the ninth to win it.

Jose Guillen doubled home the tying run in the sixth and his 10th RBI and Troy Glaus went 0-for-2 with two walks in his first game back after being sidelined for

more than 3½ months with a shoulder injury.

Orioles 7, Rangers 6: Melvin Mora hit a three-run homer and the visiting Orioles snapped a season-high 12-game losing streak, their longest since dropping the final 12 games of the 2002 season. Sidney Ponson (9-13) allowed five runs and 12 hits — 11 of them singles — in seven innings, but won for the sixth time in his last seven starts.

Indians 9, White Sox 0: At Cleveland, Scott Elarton (3-3) pitched a two-hitter for his first career shutout and Casey Blake hit two of the Indians' four homers and drove in four runs.

Travis Hafner and Ronnie Belliard also connected for Cleveland in the fastest game in Jacobs Field history, 1 hour, 16 minutes.

Mariners 9, Royals 4: At Seattle, Ichiro Suzuki went 3-for-4 with a homer and scored three runs. Suzuki, chasing George Sisler's big league season record of 27 RBIs in 1920, hit a home run. Ron Villone (5-4) pitched three scoreless innings to win it.

SPORTS



Broncos expect RB Anderson to miss significant time with groin injury, Page 36

Classic Greek drama



All photos AP except Mia Hamm, KRT

American gold medalists, from left, Mia Hamm, Andre Ward, Michael Phelps, Paul Hamill and Lisa Leslie. U.S. athletes captured 103 medals overall, 35 of them gold.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY MORGAN LOOSLY/Stars and Stripes

U.S. athletes found triumph, heartbreak in Athens

BY LARRY MCSHANE

The Associated Press

Little things meant a lot in Athens: a tear from Mia Hamm's eye, or a smile across Jennie Finch's mouth, was as good as gold.

A pair of abandoned wrestling shoes, size 13, signaled goodbye to Rulon Gardner. A track baton, about a foot long, turned to kryptonite as the U.S. women's 400-meter relay team fumbled the last medal hopes of Sydney superwoman Marion Jones.

These snapshots make up the bigger picture in Athens: 17 days of emotion and excitement in the birthplace of the Games, 108 years after the first modern Olympiad in the same Mediterranean city.

Athletes followed the ancient footsteps of a doomed distance runner from Marathon, or collected medals in arenas long reserved for Olympic ghosts.

The Americans embraced the history and made a little themselves: They broke the 100-medal mark to eclipse their team goal. With 103 medals (35 gold, 39 silver, 29 bronze), they topped the Athens medal chart and enjoyed their largest haul since Barcelona's 108 in 1992.

But they left Greece with more than just a cache of precious metals.

"It's not about the medal," said soccer star Mia Hamm, a two-time gold medalist making her third Olympic trek. "It's about the journey."

For the U.S. team, the journey began once Michael Phelps plunged into the Olympic pool. When he finally towed off for the last time, the 19-year-old had a record-tying eight medals — six gold, two bronze in the first eight days of the Games.

The classy youth demonstrated grace beyond his years by surrendering his spot in the 400-meter medley relay final to his teammate and top rival, Ian Crocker.

Even Mark Spitz, whose record seven golds in a single Games survived Phelps' onslaught, never turned that trick. Crocker won, too, as the U.S. swimmers ruled the Olympic pool, winning 12 golds and 28 medals.

Phelps led a bright new generation of U.S. Olympians: softball pitcher Finch and sprinter Justin Gatlin, soccer's Heather O'Reilly and hoopster Diana Taurasi, boxer Andre Ward and gymnast Carly Patterson — gold medal winners all.

The old guard, some ending long Olympic journeys, left their successors a legacy. Hamm, Joy Fawcett and Julie

Foudy retired after winning their golds in an overtime thriller. Dawn Staley, Lisa Leslie and Sheryl Swoopes won their third straight basketball gold; Staley won't be back, either.

Gardner, who settled for a bronze after nearly dying two years ago after a snowmobile accident, provided an unforgettable tableau: tears streaming down the face of the super heavyweight as he deposited his shoes in the middle of the mat and walked away from his sport for good.

Yes, there is crying in wrestling. Or there is if you're Rulon Gardner. But that's the way things went in Athens.

Not even Nostradamus, in his most outrageous quatrain, could have predicted such drama and delight. The Games were preceded by massive cost overruns, blown construction deadlines and dire predictions. This would be "Fear and Loathing in Athens," with the specter of terrorists supplying the first and the Americans targeted for the latter.

But it never came to pass, and the U.S. teams even turned the occasional, relatively mild anti-American outburst into motivation.

"The audience — there was a love-hate relationship," explained 100-meter gold medalist Gatlin, who also took home a silver and a bronze. "Every time I stepped out on the line, I had chills. It was electrifying."

SEE DRAMA ON PAGE 32

■ A look back in pictures at the most memorable Olympic moments Pages 30 and 31

Bonds closes in on 700 with two titanic blasts Page 39

